

Emergency in 3 Sindh dists Flood waters start entering Indus

KARACHI, Sept 14: The government on Monday ordered the evacuation of hundreds of villages, as flash flood waters that killed 650 people last week spilled into the Indus River and swept southward, reports AP.

Heavy rains and flash floods hit northern and eastern Pakistan last week, killing at least 650 people, as well as destroying homes, crops and livestock, the government said. English and Urdu-language newspapers put the death toll as high as 1,800.

On Monday, those waters began entering the Indus River that cuts through southern Sindh Province. The river was expected to crest on Wednesday or Thursday, officials said.

trucks were damaged, he said. But officials in the provinces of Punjab, Northwest Frontier and Azad Kashmir said the federal government's damage estimate was low.

In eastern Punjab, where most of Pakistan's 120 million people live, officials said the flood had caused about at least 15 billion rupees (dhs 600 million) in damage to property, crops and livestock.

In the semi-autonomous mountain state of Azad Kashmir, all major bridges have been washed away and the army has been ordered to take over relief and reconstruction work.

Jubo Command blames AL, allies for terrorism

By Staff Correspondent

Jattya Jubo Command at a rally Monday said that it would stop all its activities if terrorism was rooted out from the country.

The rally blamed Awami League and its allies for unleashing terrorism in the country and said the government had utterly failed to punish the troublemakers.

The rally held in front of the Dainik Bangla office was addressed by Abu Naser Mohammad Rahmatullah, Abduljalil Masud and BN Nazmul Huq.



Visiting US Deputy Assistant Secretary and chief of the Bureau of South Asian Affairs of US State Department Sicham Sib called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. —PID photo

DBL will be made the Directors of the DDL soon

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The company will act as a commercial bank besides financing for industrialisation, although, according to Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company, it must provide 80 per cent of its disbursement loan as term loan for the industrial sector.

The authorised capital of the company has been fixed at Taka 200 crore while the paid up capital, at Tk 75 crore.

The government will buy shares worth Tk 25 crore and the rest 50 crore will be sold to the people and the private companies.

US assures help to curb narcotic trafficking

The USA will extend all possible cooperation to Bangladesh in its efforts to control narcotic abuse and trafficking, reports BSS.

The assurance came when the US Deputy Assistant Secretary and chief of the Bureau of South Asian Affairs of US State Department Sicham Sib now on a visit to Bangladesh called on Prime Minister at her office in Dhaka yesterday.

During the call on it was mentioned that an agreement between the two countries would be signed soon on cooperation on narcotics control.

Sib congratulated Begum Zia for initiating democratic process in the country and said the process had already brought significant changes in socio-economic life of the people of Bangladesh. He said the hospitality rendered to the Rohingya refugees by Bangladesh was widely appreciated in the world community especially in the US.

The Prime Minister mentioned the steps taken to strengthen the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and USA. She expressed her heartfelt thanks for the cooperation and assistance extended by people and government of US to Bangladesh at the time of its crisis. Begum Zia made special reference to the US help and cooperation during the devastating cyclone in April last year by deploying task force and in giving shelter to Rohingya refugees.

She conveyed her thanks especially to President Bush for his initiative in this regard.

Termining the US as an important trading partner of Bangladesh the Prime Minister requested the US to relax the quota system imposed on the garment sector of Bangladesh. She said the garment was a rising sector for Bangladesh which had created large employment opportunities especially for the women.

Turning to the Rohingya refugee problems the Prime Minister said Bangladesh was a small country which was already overpopulated. She said it would not be possible for Bangladesh to sustain the pressure of Rohingya refugees for a long time. She urged the US government to continue the pressure on Myanmar authorities for taking back the refugees. We want early and safe return of the refugees, to their homeland, Begum Zia said.

The Prime Minister sent greetings to President Bush through Sib. US Ambassador to Bangladesh William B Milam was also present on the occasion.

Human trafficker

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A police party rushed to the spot and rounded up 16 persons including eight minor boys.

Six other minors along with their guardians however, managed to escape from the scene.

Astokim Ali confessed to police that he was arranging to send the children to Dulat upon an advice received from his son Abbas Ali who worked and lived there.

Ali also said that he was sent an audio cassette a few days ago in which Abbas had asked him to collect and send some minor boys to work there as 'camel boys'.

The persons picked up by police from the travel agency office are Astokim Ali, 70, Fakrul, 10, Mainul, their father Shaftuquddin, Nizamuddin, 10, his maternal cousin Jahiruddin, 30, Nurul, 7, Hossain, 10, his father Akrom Ali, Alim, 8, his father Azruddin, Alim, 9, his father Waris Ali, Mozammel, 7, and his father Rahim Ali.

Meets Matin

Sicham Sib also called on Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at the latter's office here.

They discussed matters relating to Myanmar Rohingya refugee problem, transshipment of drugs, over population problem of Bangladesh, investment climate and industrialisation.

Matin Chowdhury requested US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State to relax quota system imposed on garments export so that Bangladesh could export more garments to the United States.



Jahanara Imam, Convenor of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee addressing the national delegates' conference in city yesterday. —Star photo

Ctg Medical College closed

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hood who were asleep, witnesses said.

College sources said dispute over seat occupation at the hostel led to the armed fight between the two groups. The unruly activists also set fire to college hostel which was soon extinguished by the fire brigade personnel.

However, on receipt of information, a large contingent of police rushed to the spot and cordoned off the college campus after bringing the situation under control.

In the early morning Monday police raided the college hostel and recovered some arms and ammunition, police said adding that none was arrested in this connection.

When contacted, the Principal of the College Dr. Nurunnabi said the decision for closure of the college was taken in the meeting of college academic council held Monday.

Nurunnabi also said the Medical College would remain closed until the restoration of normalcy on the campus.

The resident students of the college were asked to vacate the hostel at 8 am Monday, the principal said.

The principal claimed that the situation of the campus was now under complete control of the authority.

UNB adds: Most of the injured, one of them is a policeman, were reported to have suffered bullet wounds in the three-hour-long armed clash between the supporters of Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir, campus sources said.

Four LG, 5 pipeguns, one toy pistol, 6 rounds of 303 rifle bullet, 5 crackers, 36 used bullets, 11 bombs and some countrymade weapons were recovered, police said.

Campus sources said several hundred gunshots were traded, scores of crackers blasted, several rooms ransacked and 23 others torched at the main hostel, Nasirabad and Luthier-Salam halls during the fierce fighting.

Seriously injured are, Tarekul Islam, Anwar Hossain, Qamruzzaman, Soyeb, Talukder, Mahfuzul Haq and Noor Hossain. Others admitted into the hospital include Khalequzzaman, Dhiman, Mukul, Mahmood, Subash, Shafig, Abdullah and Mursheed.

Police ringed and raided the halls with permission of the college authorities and brought the situation under control.

City units of the Pro-Awami League BCL and pro-Jamaat Chhatra Shibir blamed each other for the clash, demanded punishment of the culprits and urged the authorities to reopen the college immediately.

Fiftyseven general students of the medical college also appealed to the authorities to reopen the campus soon.

Meanwhile, college students union VP Kazi Nasimur Rahim and GS Tariqul Islam in a joint statement accused Shibirites of launching attack on general students and BCL supporters.

Shibir activists backed by outsiders attacked the rooms of general students and BCL men preparing for examinations, they alleged.

The attackers injured 25 BCL leaders and activists, including CMCSU pro-VP Noor Hossain Shaheen, AGS Rabiul Karim, Sports and Commoroom Secretary Shahria Moshed Sami and members Subash Kanti Dey and Abdullah Azad, they said.

The union leaders, belonging to the BCL, said bullet-struck Shaheen and Azad were fighting for life after being operated upon twice.

They demanded expulsion of the Shibir men from the college and their arrest as well as immediate reopening of the college.

Otherwise, they warned, the authorities would be held responsible for any consequences.

AL

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The ALWC accepted this amendment to the party manifesto, proposed by the sub-committee, about two months back. The ALWC, however, would consider another amendment to the party manifesto relating to the party's one of the four fundamental principles — secularism.

According to ALWC sources, the meeting beginning today will discuss incorporation of an explanation of the word 'secularism' in the party manifesto that 'secularism does not necessarily mean denying religion.'

The ALWC meeting will also discuss the proposed amendments to the party constitution, suggested by the concerned sub-committee, that included formation of an advisory council comprising at least 9 members from among the intelligentsia, expansion of the size of the Central Working Committee from 59 to 65.

The sub-committee also suggested that each of the Presidium members be given specific tasks and powers of the party chief be increased.

Although most of these amendments to the party constitution have been adopted unanimously by the concerned sub-committee, it is yet reach consensus on the party chief's powers.

According to sources, a section of the sub-committee members, known as closest to the AL chief Sheikh Hasina, proposed that the authority of taking disciplinary action against any member including ones in the central committee of the party should be vested, especially in an emergency situation, with the party chief.

While others maintain the party's working committee should not be stripped of the authority.

The sub-committee, however, will meet this morning to discuss the issue again.

Meanwhile, aspirants for the post of general secretary of the party have been busy winning the supports of the district level leaders on the one hand and blessing of the party chief Sheikh Hasina on the other.

The aspirants are Abdur Razzak MP, Tofael Ahmed MP, Abdul Jalil and Amir Hossain Amu. According to sources, Abdul Jalil, Joint Secretary, in the present committee, may surrender his candidature in favour of Amir Hossain Amu, another Joint Secretary of the party.

Tofael Ahmed MP who is known to be a vocal person in the AL may withdraw his candidacy if the proposed amendments to the party constitution affect the dignity of the post of general secretary, a source close to Tofael Ahmed, the incumbent organising secretary told The Star.

In that case Tofael would support Abdur Razzak, the source added.

However, a subject committee formed by the party chief under Article 23 (a) of the party constitution, will take initiative of selecting the next general secretary of the party and propose the name before the Council.

Mantu will appeal against his expulsion

Star Report

Fallen Awami League leader Mostafa Mohsin Mantu will appeal against his expulsion from the party before the Central Council that begins September 19.

The former chairman of the Jubo League, the party's youth front, is drafting a petition that would explain his position for his pleading before the Council.

Mantu told The Daily Star that he was hopeful of a positive response from the party's highest policy making body because the Central Working Committee (CWC) decision was 'unlawful, unconstitutional and unjust.'

The CWC expelled the firebrand youth leader on July 31 on charges of activities against the party. Mantu, also a former Dhaka District Committee leader, insists that the party failed to frame any specific charge against him.

Mantu said yesterday that he would hold a press conference Thursday to explain his position.

Meanwhile, according to sources, some party leaders have worked out a compromise formula that suggests Mantu be retained as chief of the youth front while, to honour party chief Sheikh Hasina's decision, he be kept out of the Dhaka District committee.

Mantu had defied party instruction to hold the council session of his own faction of the district committee. The Central Working Committee gave the stamp of approval to the rival committee led by Khan Majlish.

Asked, Mantu said, 'Such a formula must also consider other elements, especially the Chhatra League, the Jubo League, my colleagues in the district committee.'

The Midnight File

12 feared killed in Tamil Nadu blaze

NEW DELHI, Sept 14: A blaze swept through a factory stacked with firecrackers in southern India Monday and at least 12 people were feared killed, news reports said. Press Trust of India news agency said the fire broke out in the town of Narayanapuram in Kamarajar district in Tamil Nadu state, 1,240 miles (2,000 kilometers) south of New Delhi. Details of the incident were not immediately known. Narayanapuram is on outskirts of Sivakasi, a town renowned for its numerous match factories, reports AP.

Ukraine, EC talks on partnership by year-end

BRUSSELS, Sept 14: Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk, asking for a "civilized divorce" from the former Soviet republics, said Monday that negotiations on a far-reaching partnership with the European Community could start by the end of the year. "The distance between Brussels and Kiev must be removed," he said following his talks with EC Commission President Jacques Delors. He added that the current Commonwealth of Independent States "will not be able to resolve the problems" of the former Soviet republics, reports AP.

Farooq: Dacoity

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derstand no nationalists are with her ... excluding some of the ministers."

He criticised the arrest of "elected General Secretary" of the JCD Ilias Ali saying "It is because of these boys that she (the Prime Minister) is in her today's position."

"Khaleda is making the same mistake as her husband did ... but she is doing it more rapidly."

"I wouldn't be surprised if she is competing with Sheikh Hasina to become the head of the Pancham Bahini (fifth columnist)." "I am busy organising my party ... but they are trying to instigate me ... I won't react." "I don't see any politics in the next one year ... except chaos, and martial law or emergency."

On the recent demands of left-leaning parties to ban Freedom Party, Rahman reported: "That bunch, the Five-Party, PDF and all that ... they can't tolerate me because I don't compromise on the country's sovereignty."

Col (ret'd) Rahman refused to admit that Sunday incident was a police action. He termed it a dacoity.

His deputy, party Vice-Chairman Mian Abdur Rashid, however said that he talked to the police officer who led the raid. Rashid identified the officer as Assistant Commissioner Alam Mollah, in plainclothes during the police action.

Rashid said he arrived at the spot at around 9.30 and asked the officer to show the search warrant and the seizure list which they did not.

"He (the officer) told me to talk to higher authorities." The police action began 8.30 pm.

"It was a pre-arranged game to humiliate Freedom Party," said Rashid. "It is unprecedented ... they came with TV camera."

The Freedom Party leaders said that only three persons were arrested from inside the party office while the rest from the street. The three, they said, were gatekeeper Rezanur, office peon Yusuf and businessman Mizan.

The leaders said they were yet to identify the others taken into custody. However, the arrested woman, said city leader Farooq Reza, was the mother of Sohel, a party activist from Jigatala.

They alleged that Dhanmondi police refused to register the FIR yesterday noon. "Police told me that they would come for enquiry after consulting the higher authorities," Rashid said.

The Freedom Party leaders said a licensed shot gun Tk 50,000 in cash was seized and gave a list of goods taken away.

They produced a copy of the license that showed Rezaul

Int'l Peace Day today

Bangladesh, like the other UN member countries, observes the International Day of Peace today, reports BSS.

The day is observed each year, coinciding with the inauguration of the regular session of the UN General Assembly, which begins every year on the third Tuesday of September.

The International Day of Peace is observed following a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1981 recalling that the promotion of peace both at the international and the national levels is among the objectives of the United Nations.

Modalities

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tionalised commercial banks that will be held soon, ministry source added.

The directive was issued when a delegation of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Association led by its Chairman Dr Naymur Rahman called on the Prime Minister Sunday.

Earlier, the source noted, a cabinet sub-committee headed by Agriculture Minister Majedul Huq, recommended payment of funds to individual jute mills on the basis of 25 to 30 per cent of the value of their exports during the fiscal year 1989-90.

The cabinet sub-committee recommendations were forwarded to the Prime Minister for approval.

No provisions were made in this year's budget to fund procurement of raw jute, which was discontinued in keeping in line with the government policy of relying on market economy, the ministry source pointed out.

The Finance Ministry envisaged that the funding for procuring raw jute will take place on the basis of the relationship between the banks and individual clients, he said.

But because of poor performance by the mills, banks were unwilling to provide the funds. "This created a severe cash crunch and most jute mills were unable to purchase raw jute this year, thus requiring a special fund infusion," he said.

On Wednesday last, Jute Minister A S M Hannan Shah announced that a special fund of Taka 350 crore would be released soon to both the public and private sector jute mills and also to private jute traders to help revive the sagging raw jute market in the country.

The public sector jute mills will be allocated Taka 200 crore out of this fund while the private sector jute mills will receive Taka 100 crore. The remaining taka 50 crore will be given to the private jute traders, he added.

The Minister said that the funds for the public and private sector jute mills will be released by this week while the private traders will get the funds by the end of this month.

Bold move, needs follow-up

From Page 1 Col 7

control of party leaders and have become a power unto themselves. They consider themselves to be above party discipline and think that they are indispensable for the maintenance of JCD's hold over the vast student community. Now is the time to clean the party of these violent elements who, they fear, will corrupt other young cadres, if they have not already done so. It is the existence of these armed elements that breed factionalism, they say.

First Ilias, the general secretary of the dissolved JCD central committee, being picked up for questioning, and then being charged with two murders are important signals as to which of the two advice the PM is veering towards. But they are mere signals. The proof will have to follow. The BNP chief deserves our commendation for taking the tough line which however organisationally difficult, is morally correct and politically wise. We would like to urge the Prime Minister to take to its logical end what she has courageously started.

A word needs to be mentioned here as to how armed gangsters came to occupy such pivotal positions in a party like the JCD. Wasn't the antecedent the murder of two students in a factional fight? Who will bear the responsibility for allowing criminal elements into students politics? Will it be untrue or unfair to say that political rivalry between the BNP and the AL was carried to such absurd extent that leaders knowingly turned a blind eye to criminals entering their res-

Textile mill owners concerned at govt instruction on sick industries

By Staff Correspondent

Specialised textile mills owners have expressed concern at the instructions by the government to send files of the identified sick units directly to the banks.

Bangladesh Specialised Textile Mills and Powerloom Industries Association in a statement Monday claimed that the sick industries cell formed June, last year had been instructed to this effect and said that this would jeopardise the interest of sick units.

The association recalled that the cell had already identified the causes of sickness and also had recommended measures for remedy.

Police raid two more DU halls

By DU Correspondent

Police recovered a revolver Monday from Shahidullah Hall of Dhaka University, officials said.

They said that the police recovered the 22 bore revolver abandoned in a bathroom on the second floor during a two-hour raid on Shahidullah and Fazul Huq halls of the university.

They police also recovered one hand telephone set from the hall, they said.

None was, however, arrested.

Earlier police in a pre-dawn swoop on Salmullah, Zahurul Huq and Jagannath halls of the university Sunday recovered two sawed-off rifles, 61 bullets, four cocktails and three hand telephone sets.

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