

Insurance cos settle claims of cyclone affected enterprises

Insurance companies have settled all the Tk 160 crore claims of 432 enterprises affected by the April 29 cyclone of 1991, reports UNB.

Settling a "complex problem" within 18 months has been described by the insurance circle as a spectacular success in insurance trade.

According to insurance sources, most significant part of the process was that the state-run Sadharan Bima Corporation (SBC), both the insurer and the reinsurer of the private general insurance companies, had been able to recover Tk 135 crore from its reinsurers abroad.

As a result, local insurance companies had to bear only Tk 25 crore, about 15 per cent of the total claims. Burden on the private companies totalled Tk 13 crore while SBC alone bore the rest.

All the 16 private general insurance companies are reinsured with the SBC and the corporation is again reinsured with some giant transnational insurers in London.

SBC said the rate of recovery from reinsurance abroad was an unprecedented success. Under the traditional reinsurance arrangement, rate of recovery from reinsurers usually does not exceed 45 per cent of the original underwriters' liability.

The success was the result of putting right and farsighted steps by SBC regarding reinsurance, said SBC Managing Director MM Murshid.

In view of the success in dealing with an unprecedented crisis like 1991 cyclone, many insurance companies now feel that they would be able to offset any such shock to the economy if people become more insurance-oriented.

The SBC Managing Director said industrial and commercial enterprises here usually take only fire coverage and tend to avoid other catastrophe related coverage like flood, cyclone and earthquake.

Referring to the situation in 1991 cyclone, he said only 10 per cent of the damages, incurred by industrial and commercial establishments, had flood or cyclone coverage.

Had there been a comprehensive catastrophe coverage, the SBC chief executive observed, financial load on the affected enterprises and on the national economy as a whole would have been much less.

The SBC executive hailed the recent step of Central Rating Committee, the highest body dealing with insurance affairs, making comprehensive catastrophe coverage compulsory for industrial enterprises.

"It is a right step for a capital scarce and disaster prone economy like Bangladesh," said Murshid who is associated with insurance trade for more than 30 years.



Customs officials seized a large number of Indian Sarees from Mauchak Market in city yesterday. —Star photo

PM urged to reinstate Dr Mondal

By Staff Correspondent

Six hundred and forty five scientists, officers and employees of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) urged the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to reinstate Dr Mohammad Hossain Mondal as the Director General of the institute.

In a memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister recently, they alleged that Dr Mondal was removed from the post and made OSD (Officer on Special Duty) on October 27 as part of a conspiracy of a vested quarter in the institute.

They also alleged that the conspirators were polluting the atmosphere of the institute by creating anarchy.

They said Dr Mondal was the man who joined the institute sacrificing his bright career in Minnesota university in USA responding to a call by former President Ziaur Rahman to the qualified Bangladeshi nationals staying abroad for serving the nation.

In another memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister recently, they alleged that Dr Mondal was removed from the post and made OSD (Officer on Special Duty) on October 27 as part of a conspiracy of a vested quarter in the institute.

They also alleged that the conspirators were polluting the atmosphere of the institute by creating anarchy.

Angry workers block highway Five killed in three road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least five people were killed in three separate road accidents in Bogra and Gazipur yesterday.

Following the death of a worker of Olympia Textile Mills in a road accident at Gazipur, the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway was closed to traffic for three hours Wednesday.

Our Bogra correspondent reports: Four people were killed in two separate road accidents here early Wednesday.

A push cart driver Yasin Ali and two children were crushed under the wheels of a Nagarbari bound truck on the Shantabar highway. The two children were identified as Minto, 10, and Sufia, 7.

Local people seized the truck and handed over to the Bogra police.

In another road accident on the Bogra-Nagarbari Highway, Sairon Bibi, 55, was killed when a passenger bus ran over her at Sherpur.

Our Gazipur Correspondent says: Hundreds of agitated workers yesterday blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway for three hours and damaged 20 vehicles following the death of a worker of Olympia Textile Mills in a road mishap.

Abdul Baset yadid master of the textile was crushed to death by a truck at Tongi mill-gate bus stand at 8.45 am yesterday.

As the news spread, workers from the Tongi Industrial Area blocked the road at 9 am and continued their strike till 12 pm. Later, police brought the situation under control.

The driver of the killer truck could not be arrested. A case was filed with Tongi police.

One killed in Fatikchhari violence

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 11: One person was killed and 12 others injured in a clash between two groups of people at Nazirhat under Fatikchhari Police Station.

According to information available here, violence erupted last night when a rumour about kidnapping of one Nurul Islam Hashim spread in Nazirhat. At about midnight, in a clash between two local groups, on Kazi Abu Zafar (45) was critically injured by gunshot and succumbed to his injuries after he had been admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

JCD sweeps DHAMECSU elections

By DMCH Correspondent

Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) swept the Dhaka Medical College Students Union (DHAMECSU) polls yesterday.

The JCD candidates bagged 17 seats including Vice President (VP) and General Secretary (GS) while three others posts of Literary Secretary, Sports Secretary and Athletics Secretary went to the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

Mohammad Sayefullah Sayef, a fifth year student and Ibrahim Chowdhury, a fourth year student, were elected VP and the GS securing 403 and 360 votes respectively.

Chief Election Commissioner, Dr Atai Rabbi, a professor of the Surgery Department of the college announced the election results at 8 pm yesterday.

Students cast their votes from 8 am to 1 pm yesterday amidst tight security. No untoward incident took place.

Others elected to the union were: Social Welfare Secretary — Mazharul Shaheen, Cultural Secretary — S M Nurul Momin Sayeed Selim, Athletics Secretary — Bashir Ahmed Badal (BCL), Common Room Secretary — Syed Zakir Hossain Biplob (BCL) and Sports Secretary — S M Ali Ahmed (BCL).

Twelve elected members are — Tawhidul Islam John, M Ashraful Alam, M Shahidul Ferdous, Tarek Abdullah, Nasim Ahmed Jowardar, Reaz Ferdous, Asjadur Rahman, Jahidur Rahman, Nairan Sultana Lata, M Solaiman Tanveer, Shah Mohammad Faisal Iskander and Mohammad Abdur Rahman Beg Ripon.

PM : Terrorism

From Page 1 Col 7

Begum Zia said all in a body would have to carry forward the development programmes of the government to make the country self-reliant.

She said those who do not want country's progress were conspiring as a people's representative government, now in power, had taken up programmes aimed at welfare of commonman.

They are hindering the development programmes deeming that the people would no longer follow the politics of "louts and frauds," the Prime Minister said.

She mentioned the uplift programmes of her government in educational, health and industrial sectors.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, State Minister for Communications Fazlur Rahman, Osman Gani Khan, MP, Serajul Islam Sarker and BNP leaders of Pabna district also addressed the function.

Vice-President of Bangabandhu Parishad Fazlul Huq, Pabna JSD leader Prof Yunus Ali, Nazmul Huq Nanno of Moitry Samity, General Secretary of Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association Dr Mojibur Rahman, Nani Gopal Shaha of Pabna Awami League, General Secretary of Nagarbari Chat Sramik Union Shahidur Rahman and former GS of Nagarbari Ghat Sramik Union Mohammad Fazlul Huq spoke on behalf of the newcomers.

The speakers pledged to work for strengthening the power of the people's representative government and integrate themselves with the programmes it had taken for socio-economic emancipation of commonman.

OEFC chief

From Page 1 Col 8

development projects.

In this context, she mentioned the proposed Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project, Chittagong Airport Project and a few others in the energy and communication sectors.

Nishigaki arrived here Tuesday to open an OEFC office.

The OEFC was established in 1961 as a public sector organisation for promoting Japan's overseas economic cooperation by providing funds for industrial development of South East Asia and other developing regions.

So far, Bangladesh has received more than 3,400 million US dollars through OEFC soft assistance for procurement of essential commodities and for financing different projects.

Matlab College

From Page 1 Col 5

The clash erupted at about 1 pm when both the groups brought out separate processions on the campus with provocative slogans.

Sources said the clash could be in backlash to Sunday's incident when students of the college engaged in a brawl during class hour.

Both the groups used sticks and country-made weapons during today's clash. The situation cooled down after the arrival of police at about 2 pm.

The Midnight File

UK women allowed to be ordained as priests

LONDON, Nov 11: The Church of England meeting in general Synod voted today to allow women to be ordained as priests. Each of the three chambers of the Synod voted for the ordaining of women, an issue that has divided the Church of England for the past 20 years, reports AFP.

Three killed in Tripura communal violence

NEW DELHI, Nov 11: Communal violence erupted Wednesday in the northeastern Indian state of Tripura, leaving at least three people dead and a number of houses burnt down, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said. Rival groups from two unidentified communities fought with each other outside Kalachhara village near Bangladesh border, reports AFP.

Gayoom ready to serve a fourth term

COLOMBO, Nov 11: Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom announced today he was ready to serve a fourth term as leader of the tiny Muslim atoll nation if parliament nominated him for the job. The President, who has ruled the Indian ocean archipelago since 1978, completes his third five-year term in November 1993, reports AFP.

Shrimp farming

From Page 1 Col 7

16, 1990. But CID police of Khulna then took up the case for investigation and it is yet to prepare report on the issue.

Wajed Ali was the cashier of the Khulna unit of the Jatiya Party during Ershad's rule and recently he has joined the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Dozens of processions comprising both men and women joined the rally chanting slogans against shrimp cultivation in the area and for trial of the killers of Korunamaye.

Karunamoyee has become the symbol of struggle against multifarious oppression in the area.

Rupabhan (46), a widow and one of the 50 injured on Nov 7, 1990 was also taken away by Wajed's men along with the body of Korunamaye and was later left on the river bank on the assumption that she was dead, told this correspondent.

"We shall neither compromise the demand of the trial of the killers of Karuna nor allow anybody to cultivate shrimps in the area," a firm Rupabhan further said. Karuna has taught us how to struggle against bad people like Wajed."

When asked how the shrimp farming affected them, the landless Rupabhan, pointing her forefinger towards the other side of the river said,

"Look, shrimp cultivation on the north side of the river has turned the area gray destroying vegetation and thus has left the wage labourers with little scope for earnings. 'We have to embrace the same fate if we fail to resist the shrimp farmers in our villages', she added.

Nirapad Mallik who owns 15 bighas of lands in the area said, "Shrimp farming has virtually eliminated traditional agricultural crops like sesame, aus paddy and vegetables etc." Lease arrangements put the landowners in such a situation that they do not have access to their lands for 7 to 8 months in a year and the saline water all around makes it impossible to raise cattle. 'And top of all', Nirapad went on to say, 'once shrimp cultivation starts on a piece of land, it along with its adjacent areas lose fertility.

In an unusual move, the land owners and the landless peasants of the south Khulna region are fighting together for the common cause.

The speakers addressing the rally held last Saturday called upon the government to prevent the traders from farming shrimps in the cultivable lands and thus protect the people from both the continuous unemployment and severe environmental degradation.

SAARC : Drug addicts

From Page 1 Col 4

Bhang, Shiddi, Ganja, Charas, Hashish, Marijuana, Cannabis, Opium and Heroin are the most widely abused drug in South Asian countries, affecting the young people in urban areas.

Besides, a large number of youngsters in this region take tranquilisers like Seduxen, Mandrax, Valium, Soneril and other barbiturates regularly.

Heroin abuse remains a prominent feature in Europe, Asia and the Far East as well as in the Near East and the Middle East.

According to an estimate, drug trafficking is now a US 500 billion dollar (Tk 20 lakh crore) a year business. The United States market for illicit drugs is estimated to be 50 billion dollar to 100 billion dollar a year.

Cocaine from South America holds the lion's share of the market. Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean islands are also involved as transit points for cocaine traffic, as well as the production of cannabis.

3 housewives robbed, one house looted

By Staff Correspondent

Three muggings and one dacoity were committed at Mohammadpur, Sutrapur, Ramna and Dhanmondi in the capital Wednesday.

A group of dacoits barged into the house of a businessman at Al Amin Road, Kathal Bagan and decamped with cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Taka 3,48,000 early Wednesday.

The houseowner Abdul Latif said that some six dacoits entered his house at around 3.45 am, tied up the inmates and looted Taka 30,000 in cash, gold-ornaments of 50 tolas and other valuables worth about Taka 3,48,000 at gun-point.

A case was registered with Dhanmondi police and police said they took three persons into their custody on suspicion.

In another incident, a group of gangsters robbed, Nurunnahar, a housewife, of her gold ornaments weighing five tolas at Awrangzeb Road in Mohammadpur at 11.30 yesterday morning.

Yet in another incident, two muggers waylaid a housewife, Farida Yasmin, and snatched away her gold chain and bangles weighing about four tolas near Gandaria High School at Sutrapur yesterday noon.

At Eskaton when another housewife, Momtaj Alam, was going home by her car, two muggers riding on a motor-bike stopped her at 12 noon and snatched away her gold ornaments at gun-point, police said.

Bush

From Page 1 Col 8

Fitzwater said.

AP adds: Bush and Barbara paid a surprise midnight visit to the Vietnam Memorial on Wednesday and read some of the names inscribed on its walls. He described the experience as "extraordinarily moving."

"I had a chance to thank about 200 veterans there," said the president as he left later for a 5-day fishing trip to Florida. "I read some of the names, those names that appear on the wall, and inasmuch as it's Veterans Day I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank all veterans for their service to this country."

Bush described the visit as low-key and said it was at the stroke of midnight.

Another report says: Clinton spoke by telephone on Tuesday with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to discuss Middle East peace hopes and conflicts in the region, Clinton's spokesman said.

Communications director George Stephanopoulos said Clinton praised Mubarak for his work in the Middle East peace process and told the Saudi King that the United States remains committed to the security of the Gulf and Saudi Arabia.

Woman burned to death

By Staff Correspondent

A young woman was burned to death when fire broke out at a cotton refining mills at Natun Shampur in the capital Wednesday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Salma, 20, an employee of the mills, police said.

Fire Service sources said that they rushed on the spot at 2 pm and brought the fire under control within an hour which was originated from an electric short circuit.

Total loss could not be ascertained immediately. Fire Service sources said.

Class Four employees' demands

By Staff Correspondent

The leaders of Class Four government employees at a press conference yesterday demanded Taka 1050 as their minimum basic salary.

Explaining their 10-point demands, the leaders also demanded 40 per cent of the basic salary as dearness allowance and extension of service age from 57 to 60.

Addressing the conference, they further demanded immediate removal of Rukonul Islam Chawdhury, director of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

They alleged that the director of the hospital was involved in various types of corruption, including embezzlement of hospital fund and filing 'false' cases against employees.

In a government order issued on October 12, the director was asked to hand over charge to the newly appointed director by October 29. But he is still holding the office, the leaders added.

Rukonul Islam Chawdhury 'fabricated' a case for which the President and the Publicity Secretary of the Hospital Employees Association M Nazir Ahmed and M Arman Ali were arrested, the leaders said and demanded withdrawal of the case.

The Association will launch a greater movement if the government order is not put to effect, the leaders warned.

The press conference was addressed among others by Golan Mostafa Talukder, SM Shahjahan Kabir, Mojibur Rahman and Abu Hanif.

Karnataka CM resigns

BANGALORE, Nov 11: Karnataka Chief Minister S Bangarappa resigned today on the directive of the Congress (I) high command, reports PTI.

Bangarappa drove to the Raj Bhawan at 1925 hours and submitted the resignation of his two-year-old ministry to Governor Khurshid Alam Khan.

Kamal

From Page 1 Col 5

Jamaluddin Ahmed were also present at the meeting.

Barrister Amirul Islam in his speech called for forging a national unity irrespective of political opinions and party affiliations to rid the nation of the crisis it had plunged into.

According to him, Premier and chief of ruling BNP Khaleda Zia was ought to rule the country continuing the national unity of 1990.

Islam, also warned that they would unveil the 'games' being played by the ministers and the leaders belonging to both in the government and in the opposition.

He called upon the politicians not to divide the nation for their petty interests.

Mostafa Mohsin Mantu pointed out that those who claim themselves pro-liberation forces had failed to bring any relief for the masses in past 21 years.

Expelled from the AL and now leading his followers under the banner of Jubo League, Mantu urged Kamal to carry forward the movement of establishing democracy and assured him (Kamal) of his (Mantu's) allout cooperation.

Mantu accused a section of the politicians of being allies of the autocrats and blamed another faction of being the friends of the 'rajakars' and added that their activities would ruin the nation.

Other speakers strongly felt for a change in politics to change the lot of the people.

Before the start of the meeting, Kamal and Mantu garlanded the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the founder of Jubo League Sheikh Moni.

The meeting rounded off with a cultural function.

Major under fire

From Page 1 Col 7

demanded to know whether Major was aware of the arms shipments to Iraq when he assured him in December 1990 that Britain had, since October 1985, observed the UN arms embargo against Iraq.

"It touches on both the integrity and the competence of the government," Ashdown said in a letter to Major.

The furor erupted after three executives of Iraqi-owned Matrix Churchill Corp were acquitted Monday of selling arms-making equipment to Iraq between 1988 and 1990, in violation of the arms embargo.

The sales, worth more than dir 37 million, took place when Margaret Thatcher was prime minister. Major succeeded her in November 1990, shortly before the Gulf War allies launched air strikes to drive Iraq from Kuwait.

Matrix Churchill debacle came less than a week after Major's government nearly collapsed in a parliamentary battle over a treaty on closer European union. The prime minister is already in deep trouble over the economy and a series of other embarrassments and policy U-turns.



An Israeli artillery unit moves to the border with Lebanon on Wednesday as Israel continues to assemble troops for an eventual operation against the Muslim Hezbollah that has been launching rocket attacks on north Israel. Story on Page 5 —AFP photo

Hasina refuses to appear before TV camera

Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked a TV crew not to show her function, complaining that the Bangladesh Television distorts Awami League activities and her speeches to tarnish the party image to the people, reports UNB.

The leader of the Opposition refused to appear before the BTVC camera while addressing a discussion meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday evening on the occasion of 20th anniversary of founding of Juba League.

The state-owned television, Hasina alleged, was misleading the people by orchestrating propaganda against Awami League.

"I don't need radio and television. Awami League workers and supporters will reach my party programmes to commonman," she told the meeting.

The Awami League chief said the BNP government was using TV the way Ershad used it for his propaganda.

"Once we called BTVC as a box of 'sahab-bibi-golam' now it turns into a box of 'bibi-golam'."

She criticised the BNP government for not making the state-owned radio and television autonomous

Hasina : Democracy

From Page 1 Col 7

the independence of the country.

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament also questioned the mission behind the Prime Minister's visits to America, Italy and Bahrain.

Hasina criticised the Prime Minister for the remarks that Awami League was conspiring against democracy and said that instead, it is the autocratic mentality of BNP that has been pushing the country towards ruination.

Termining the anti-terrorism law as a 'terrorist law', the AL leader said that the ruling party had snatched away people's fundamental rights by making "this worst black law".

Referring to the 11 amendments to the bill moved by the Treasury Bench, she said "if it's not a black law, why did they bring so many amendments to their own ordinance?"

She alleged that the law was enacted to persecute political opponents and for consolidating the hold on power by the ruling BNP. "Begum General" imposed martial law through this black law to stifle the voice of the opposition, she said.

The founding anniversary of Juba League was earlier observed by hoisting the national and party flags in the morning