

Floods leave 200 dead in India

NEW DELHI, Nov 15: Torrential rains and floods during the last four days have left more than 200 people dead and thousands homeless in southern India, news reports said Sunday, reports AP.

About 100 people were killed in landslides in the hilly areas of Tamil Nadu state, United News of India said. It did not give details.

The havoc was caused by a cyclonic storm that grew in the Bay of Bengal Thursday and whipped India's most southern region with high speed winds and incessant rains for four days. The area is 2,125 kilometres (1,320 miles) south of New Delhi.

Hundreds of mud-and-brick houses and flimsy huts collapsed, killing at least 64 people, United News said.

It said 27 people were sucked off by raging waters of Tamaraparani river Friday night. A truck was washed away in Noyyal river Saturday, killing 15 people traveling in it, UNI said.

In Madurai district alone, the loss to crops and business was estimated at 45 million rupees (US\$ 1.5 million). This included the damage to 10,000 acres (4,000 hectares) of rice paddy.

More than 5,000 people were evacuated after their homes on the banks of Vaigai river were submerged under 3-foot (1-metre) of water, UNI said.

Many irrigation lakes and reservoirs in four worst affected districts were overflowing, it said.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Kotiadi Pilot High School in Kishoreganj yesterday. — PID photo

Economic adjustment

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proceed with it and should not stop.

He said that the bank was following the development of Bangladesh economy very closely and keen with interest.

Preston underscored the need for a greater role of the private sector and said that the bureaucratic difficulties of the past regime was now over and the sector was picking up.

The World Bank chief said that the overseas development assistance had become a scarce commodity in the changed global politico-economic situation and at the same time developed world was now facing budget deficit difficulties.

The bank is now trying to increase the IDA 10 replenishment, he added.

He said that he and his wife were very happy and excited to be here.

Finance Minister Rahman asked the World Bank chief for assisting Bangladesh for her infrastructural development, alleviation of poverty and Jamuna bridge.

Rahman said the export earnings had increased, foreign exchange reserve was now at a record high, rate of inflation had declined to 4.5 per cent and domestic savings had increased higher than the budgetary projections during the first four months (July-October) of the current fiscal 1992-93.

Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Majid-ul-Haq, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Commerce Minister M K Anwar, Health Minister Kamal ibne Yusuf, Education Minister Jamiruddin Striar, Information Minister A M Zahiduddin Khan and Jute Minister Hannan Shah, Awami League leaders Dr Kamal Hossain, Tofael Ahmed MP and Abdur Razzak MP, CPB president Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, BNP leader Akbar Hossain MP and Farida Hasan MP, JSD leader Hasanul Haq Inu and a number of MPs, politicians, former ministers, Supreme Court

Preston's visit

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The GCO has planned to stage a demonstration in front of the WB office at Paribagh in the city today (Monday) at 11 am to register further protest against the bank's role in the national economic policy.

Protirodh Network, a forum of female social workers, held its demonstration in front of the National Museum protesting population control policy of the World Bank. Leaders of the organisation while addressing the rally, alleged that the WB was allowing contraception methods like Norplant, Depo Provera injection and IUD in Bangladesh which had already been proved harmful in other countries. After the rally, the Network workers started marching towards the WB mission at Paribagh but were intercepted by police on the way.

Chhatra Oikya Forum, another left-wing student body brought out a procession from the DU campus and planned demonstration in front of the WB office, but police stopped the procession at Shahbagh crossing.

Meanwhile BSS adds: The Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) Officers Welfare Association yesterday welcomed the arrival of the World Bank president at a time when the country, under its democratic government, striving hard to achieve its objectives through free-market mechanism.

BSRS's (A fully government owned development financing institution) privatisation plan was a significant achievement to this end, said the association in a press release and hoped that this would lead to greater financial discipline and pave the way to increased investment in the country.

Four Rohingyas have died of Diarrhoea

By Staff Correspondent

In two weeks until 6 November, four persons died of severe diarrhoea in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

A press release issued in Dhaka yesterday by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said that some reports in the media about diarrhoea situation in refugee camps were exaggerated.

It said that from October 24 until November 6, there were four deaths due to severe diarrhoea, with a fifth case due to shigellosis.

Surveillance data since then have not been tabulated but there have been no further death due to severe diarrhoea in the camps.

The press release mentioned that these levels were not abnormal and the isolated outbreaks which have occurred in a few camps are well contained.

Hasina

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the government planned to re-trench workers without arranging alternative employment for them.

The Awami League President recalled the contributions of the workers and employees to the anti-autocracy movement and said expectation of the workers for improvement in their condition had been shattered by the misuse of the government.

"Unrest is prevailing among the workers of mills and factories... workers are being instigated by the government to involve in clashes," the opposition leader alleged.

She advised the government not to sack workers without arranging their employment.

The Awami League leader said that her party had formulated a people-oriented economic policy to attain self-reliance in national economy.

Hasina extended her support to the 5-point demand of the SKOP, the 6-point demand of the cotton and textile mills and 8-point demand of the jute mill workers. She demanded reopening of the closed mills and factories and announcement of the national wages commission.

The opposition leader also asked the trade union leaders to build up movement for realisation of their just demands.

Earlier, the CBA leaders apprised Hasina of their various problems.

Awami League leaders Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Tofael Ahmed MP, Zillur Rahman, Abdul Jalil, Dr Mizanul Haq MP, Siddique Hossain, Samrak League leaders Fazlul Haq Mantu, Ahsanullah Master and Sirajul Islam as well as Bijoy Sarker and Ayub Ali Khan of Kishoreganj Textile Mills, and Abul Kashem, Keramat Ali and Matar Rahman of Kaliachakra Sugar Mill were present.

Gharial handed over to zoo

From Our Correspondent

MANIKGANJ, Nov 15: Gharial, a nearly extinct crocodile-like species, which was caught here on Wednesday has been sent to the National Zoo at Mirpur in city today.

A fisherman, Nawsher Ali netted the three feet long Gharial in the river Jamuna while he was fishing on Wednesday last.

The fisherman handed over the animal to the officer at Shibaboya thana on the day. Later it was handed over to M A Hye, the curator of the National Zoo today.

IFRC chief due today

By Staff Correspondent

Dr Mario Enrique Villarreal Lander, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) arrives Dhaka today (Monday) on a three-day visit.

During his stay, Dr Mario will discuss matters of mutual interest with Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) Chairman Syed Shahidul Haque Jamal, MP, and members of the managing board of the Society.

The IFRC chief will also visit some of the BDRCS projects and programmes in the city. He will also call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf and State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman Khan.

Examinee beaten

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year student of the department and a pro-BNP Jatayatnabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist was physically assaulted by the rivals in his organisation just before the beginning of the examinations at about 1:45 in the afternoon, campus sources said.

Sources said a group of some 12 unruly students went to the examination hall of the Arts Building and beat up Gaus with hammer and chair.

Gaus with serious injury in his head was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, sources said.

Later the department authorities cancelled yesterday's all first, second year and Masters final term examinations after an emergency meeting, sources said.

Boat with timber seized near Teknaf

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 15: A patrol team of the Forest Department seized an engine boat from the sea near Teknaf carrying 300 cubic feet of timber and arrested 11 persons this morning.

The timber worth about Taka 16 lakh was collected illegally from the reserved forest area of Cox's Bazar.

Paracetamol

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In the United States showed that certain Paracetamol syrup contained Diethylene Glycol as the diluent and not Propylene Glycol.

Dr Hanif, a paediatric nephrologist of Dhaka Shishu Hospital, said thousands of ignorant parents were treating their children with conventional Paracetamol syrup available in the market.

He further said a study conducted on 309 children with Acute Renal Failure (ARF) at the Shishu Hospital and of them 239 were found to have taken Paracetamol syrup. He said 233 children later died.

Chaired by Major General Anis Waiz, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Shishu Hospital, the function was addressed, among others, by Dr. Maksud Hossain Chowdhury, Dr. Selimul Haque, Prof. M. R. Khan, Col Ziauddin, M. Ajar Samina, Prof. Akbar; Dr. Atiqur Rahman and Salman Rahman.

Dr Hanif, however, said it was not known whether any pharmaceutical knowingly mixing this fatal chemical (diethylene Glycol) as a diluent of paracetamol syrup or not, but it is certain that this poisonous substance is being mixed.

The participants suggested that all types of paracetamol syrup should be examined and those found to be guilty of mixing this substance should be brought into book.

They also called for educating the parents through media and other means so that they bring their children within 24 hours after their children develop urinary problem. They also stressed the need for extending dialysis facilities in different hospitals of the country including health complexes at thana level in the wake of increased renal failure.

Vested quarters

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"Your responsibility is not over with voting the national forces to power," the Prime Minister told her responding audience, urging them to unite and resist those trying to jeopardize the development programmes of the government.

She stressed the need for a congenial and peaceful atmosphere for implementation of development programmes the government had undertaken for welfare of commonman.

Begum Zia criticised hartal calls by the opposition, saying it's time for building the country together.

The Prime Minister accused the vested quarters of what she said providing shelter to terrorists to create indiscipline in national life.

Referring to the anti-terrorism bill recently passed by parliament, she said it was meant for those indulging in terrorism, anarchy, extortion, eve-teasing and child lifting.

"The law is to ensure safety, peace and discipline in society," Begum Zia said, reassuring that no innocent would be harassed.

"Those opposing the anti-terrorism bill do not want welfare of the people, progress of the country and peace in society."

Presided over by thana BNP president Habibur Rahman

WB: Energy sector

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initiated massive reform programmes to bring about drastic changes."

The Finance Minister told Preston that the Bangladesh economy was now picking up gradually as a result of the policy changes.

Rahman said that the export earnings of the country had increased by 12 per cent during the first four months (July-October) of the current fiscal (1992-93) compared with the corresponding period of the last fiscal while imports also picked up by 26 per cent and earnings from remittances surged by 25 per cent during the same period.

He said that the monetary situation of the country was now very excellent and that the rate of inflation was only 4.5 per cent.

The Finance Minister said that the collection of tax-revenues during the first four months of the current fiscal was also far ahead of the budgetary target and that the implementation of the Annual Development Programmes had been picking up remarkably this year compared with the last fiscal.

ERD Secretary Enam Ahmad Chowdhury, World Bank Vice-President Joshep Wood, Additional ERD Secretary Ayub Quadri, World Bank alternate Executive Director Abu Sayeed and World Bank resident mission chief Christopher R Willoughby were also present during the hour-long meeting held in a very cordial atmosphere.

Garments factory looted

By Staff Correspondent

A garments factory at Mohammadpur in the capital was looted of clothes and other goods worth about Taka five lakh early Sunday.

Around eight armed men barged into the Shyamoli garments at Ring Road, Mohammadpur, at around 2 am, tied up its security guard and looted clothes and other goods worth about Taka five lakh, according to a complaint lodged with Mohammadpur police.

Police suspected involvement of some employees of the factory in the incident, according to a police source.

Mohammadpur police last night said that they had picked up one of the employees of the factory and detained him for questioning. But police declined to give the name of the employee.

Evicted slum dwellers stage sit-in

By Staff Correspondent

Slum dwellers of Agargaon, Babupura, Mirpur, Kalyanpur and Rayerbazar areas of the city yesterday staged a sit-in demonstration near the Bangladesh Secretariat protesting their eviction.

Basti Uchehed Protirodh Committee (the committee for resisting eviction of slum dwellers) organised the demonstration in the morning.

Committee leaders while addressing the demonstrators warned that they would launch a greater movement if the crisis was not resolved at the November 30 planned meeting between the committee and the authorities concerned.

Later, the committee leaders including Mohammad Zafar and Abdul Wadud submitted copies of a memorandum containing their plight and demands at the offices of the Prime Minister, the Works Minister and the Land Development Minister.

Sharif

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its success.

Rahman conveyed the greetings and best wishes of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to the Pakistan Prime Minister. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif recalled the visit of Begum Zia to Pakistan in August last and said that the visit had significantly contributed towards further strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Muhammad Siddique Khan Kanju, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, and M Anwar Hashim, High Commissioner for Bangladesh in Pakistan were present.

Earlier, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister had a meeting with Muhammad Siddique Khan Kanju.

They discussed bilateral relations, exchanged views on regional cooperation, with particular reference to the forthcoming SAARC summit and the major global issues of common concern.

The Foreign Minister also visited the Chancery of the Bangladesh High Commission in Islamabad where he met with the Mission officials.

The Foreign Minister will leave for Kathmandu tomorrow via Karachi.

Tk 51.45 crore Norwegian grant

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One gets 14 yrs RI for keeping illegal arms

A young man was yesterday sentenced to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment for possessing illegal arms, reports UNB.

Special Tribunal judge Abdus Sattar Bhuiya convicted Lutfar Rahman (32) under the Special Powers Act, 1974.

The case in brief, Lutfar Rahman who comes from Kapasia was by force staying at Latif Chhatrabash of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute. Inmate of the student dormitory Mustafizur Rahman lodged a complaint against Lutfar for forcibly keeping two revolvers in his trunk. He informed the Tejgaon police about it.

Police rushed to the spot and seized the revolvers and arrested Lutfar.

After examining 5 witnesses and hearing both sides, the judge found Lutfar guilty and awarded the conviction.

The Midnight File

Finnish CP declared bankrupt

HELSINKI, Finland, Nov 15: Finland's Communist Party, founded in Moscow in 1918, declared itself bankrupt Sunday, with debts amounting to nearly 20 million dollar, party officials said. The decision to file for bankruptcy was taken at a weekend meeting of party officials called to discuss debts of 95 million markkaa (19 million dollar), said party chairman Helja Kotela, reports AP.

Romanian doctors go on strike today

BUCHAREST, Nov 15: The largest union of doctors and health workers planned to strike Monday for higher pay and better working conditions, shutting down much of the dilapidated health care system, Romania's Rompres news agency said. The strike would paralyze 60 per cent of all hospital and clinic activity, Rompres said Sunday. It was not clear how many workers would strike, reports AP.

VAT on pesticides

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proper use.

The company produces almost 50 per cent of the total pesticide requirement of the country.

The Ciba executive thanked all employees of the plant and others involved in the sales and distribution for making the company a success.

The Mayor extended his felicitations to the company for establishing an insecticide plant in the country and producing quality pesticides, meeting the needs of the farmers on time.

Dr Rahman reminded all those involved in the production and marketing of pesticides about their responsibilities and requested them to take all necessary precautions in their production and use.

The head of manufacturing of insect control, plant protection of Ciba-Geigy, Switzerland, Dr M Reinert, stated that the company was fully aware of the responsibility regarding the quality control of pesticides as part of its worldwide programme.

Ciba also spent Taka 3,000 crore every year on safety and environmental protection around the world, he added.

Dr William Vorley, a Switzerland-based scientist of the company, outlined Ciba's standpoint on integrated pest management.

The company, he said, through its Farmers Support Team was presently executing a five-year plan in eleven countries, to train farmers on the proper use of pesticides at the right time, place and method and proper precautionary measures.

Two academicians, Dr Bahadur Mian of Bangladesh Agricultural University and Dr Ataur Rahman of the Rajshahi University presented their findings regarding the use of Ciba pesticides.

Bhasani

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wrath at Bhasani's major tomorrow (Tuesday) at Shantosh in Tangail district.

The Maulana Bhasani Mrityu Barshiki Udjapan Committee will hold a commemorative meeting today at 4:00 pm at the National Press Club.

Jatiya Krishak Party will hold a discussion on Tuesday at 4:00 pm at the Jatiya Party central office at Kawran Bazar in observance of the death anniversary of the leader.

Meanwhile, Alema Khatun Bhasani, the widow of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, has urged all to observe the 16th anniversary of death of the populist leader with due solemnity.

"I appeal to the people irrespective of cast and creed to uphold his (Bhasani's) political philosophy and continue his political struggle for emancipation of the downtrodden not only in Bangladesh but in the whole world," she said in a statement received here yesterday.

She hoped her appeal would inspire the disciples of the great maulana in continuing their struggle for building Bangladesh in the line of their beloved leader.

Alema invited her late husband's followers to attend the functions at Santosh on November 17 to mark the Bhasani anniversary.

Delhi: N-free

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measures cannot achieve the goal of complete nuclear disarmament.

Despite strong Indian opposition, the Pakistan moved resolution was approved by the committee by an overwhelming 117 votes with only India and Bhutan casting negative votes. Twelve members abstained in the resolution that was sponsored by Bangladesh.

The committee also approved a resolution on holding of a conference in 1995 to review the non-nuclear proliferation treaty by 133 votes with India and Cuba abstaining.

Explaining the abstention, Chandra said India fully supported non-proliferation and opposed any vertical or horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons. But it has not signed the treaty as it is discriminatory placing restriction on non-nuclear weapon states without imposing similar constraint on nuclear weapon countries.

Vacancy Announcement

The Bangladesh Resident Office of the Asian Development Bank wishes to recruit a female receptionist/telephone operator. The candidate must have:

- fluency in English
- pleasing personality
- some experience, preferably at similar organization
- knowledge of typing
- knowledge of computer operation (not essential)

Interested candidates fulfilling the above requirements should submit application with bio-data and a recent photo by 23 November 1992 to:

Administrative Officer
Asian Development Bank
BSEC Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka

Suitable candidates will be interviewed by appointment only. Those who have applied for this position previously need not apply again.