

Engineers press for human resource development

From Staff Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 24: Engineers at a national seminar here Sunday stressed the need for developing human resources of the country to face the challenges of the 21st century.

They also called to direct all scientific inventions towards developing the standard of living of the deprived people.

The seminar titled "Development challenges of the 21st century: Bangladesh perspective" was organised on the occasion of the 37th convention of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) at its Rajshahi centre.

Engineer S M Al-Hussainy presented a keynote paper at the seminar held in three sessions with an overview encompassing all sectors of development while Iqbal Mahmood, Shah M Faruq, Amzad Hossain Khan, Q I Siddiqui, S M Shahidullah, Md Golam Mohiuddin and Mahbulul Huq presented papers on various priority sectors.

Al-Hussainy stressed the need for an appropriate structural transformation of the economy saying that without this the country would not be able to solve the deep-rooted problems of growth, employment and poverty alleviation.

"The track records of economic performance that could enable us to cope with the

current problems and hence, brace us for meeting future challenges are not encouraging," he said, adding that the 16 per cent growth of export did not tell the fact that expressed as a proportion of GDP actually dropped to 9.4 per cent in 1991.

"Development depends on investment and here the gross investment declined from 15.9 per cent in 1981 to 11.7 per cent in 1991 while the public investment dropped in the corresponding period from 8.7 per cent to 6.7 per cent," Dr Hussainy said.

He, however, stressed the need for bringing the people and their interests to the forefront in the country's planning, policy formulation, implementation and administration.

Focusing on the roles of political parties, he said they had come out with different manifestoes but it was not clear if those were the result of any analytical studies targeting the clearly established need of the people.

"On the official side also during the two decades, no perspective plan for development could be produced while the five year plans remained legends to be used more as references quoted in seminar papers rather than implemented faithfully by the government," Dr Hussainy said



Khelaghar members brought out a procession in city yesterday marking its 40th founding anniversary. — Star photo

Dhaka reviewing

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of our policy and actions and also to arrogate itself the right to advise us on matters in which it has no locus standi whatsoever," the Indian statement said.

Observers here, however, point to the fact that the JS resolution did not condemn the Indian government.

The statement went to the extent of saying: "We shall watch and judge future actions of Government of Bangladesh, with due attention."

Official sources here said that the New Delhi statement, strongest so far in terms of contents, had lost touch with reality.

The international community, they say, condemned and expressed concern over the incident. The European Community, the OIC, the United States have spoken on the issue.

The sources refer to the fact that not only India, that has seen violent communal riots killing hundreds across the country but also the sub-continent and some other parts in the world have borne the brunt.

The incident sparked off a situation that saw, two days later, the sudden postponement of the SAARC summit and then again, when violence re-erupted in India, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's "inability" to attend the rescheduled summit.

New Delhi, however, backed out of its position a day after saying that a vitiated regional atmosphere in the aftermath of the Ayodhya disas-

Mass Upsurge Day observed

By Staff Correspondent

Different political parties and student organisations, Sunday observed the 24th anniversary of the historic mass upsurge with a renewed call to root out any form of autocracy from the country.

The Five-party Alliance held a public rally in front of GPO while the student groups brought out processions on the Dhaka University campus.

Hasanul Huq Inu of JSD presided over the rally addressed among others, by Nirmal Sen, Bimal Biswas, A F M Mahbulul Huq and Abdullah Sarker.

Inu alleged that the democratically elected government was now stuck in a autocratic framework and was ruling the country like a deposed autocrat.

He called for wider unity to change this "autocratic structure".

The day is being observed since 1969 when the anti-Ayub movement culminated to the mass upsurge ousting the then dictatorial rule in the erstwhile East Pakistan.

Mattur, a student of Class Nine of Nabakumar Institution of Dhaka city among others were killed in police firing on the day.

Our DU Correspondent adds: Student organisations brought out processions and held rallies on the Dhaka University campus yesterday to observe the Mass Upsurge Day.

The pro Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) held a rally at the Aparajeo Bangla of the DU yesterday morning.

The rally addressed by the BCL (M-I) leaders Iqbalur Rahim and Pankaj Nath.

The Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) also brought out a procession and held a rally at the Aparajeo Bangla yesterday noon.

The GCO rally was addressed by Sajjad Zahir Chandan and Ragib Ahsan Munna with Abul Kalam Azad in the chair.

The Midnight File

Arms seized from Mirersharai Jamaat office: 7 held

CHITTAGONG, Jan 24: Seven Jamaat Shibir activists were arrested and some arms seized from Mirersharai thana Jamaat office which was raided by police today. The arrests include president and general secretary of Thana Jamaat Mofzur Rahman Nazam and Nurul Karim. Police said three pipe guns, two ammunition and one explosive were seized from the Jamaat office, about 60 km from Chittagong. The police raid was conducted at 1 pm, reports UNB.

Zardari may be freed soon

KARACHI, Jan 24: Asif Ali Zardari, husband of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, on Sunday predicted the Islamic government soon will clear the way for his release from jail. "My first priority will be to bridge the gap with my children," Zardari told The Associated Press during a recess at his bail hearing. "Twenty months is a long time in prison and I have hardly spent any time with my children," said Zardari. He and Bhutto have a 4-year-old son, Bilawal, and a 3-year-old daughter, Bakhtawar.

Hasina: Terrorism

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promoted Police Commissioner Mirza Rafiqul Huda despite complaints against him by an enquiry commission.

"He was involved in the police attack on journalists at the Press Club with the backing of the government," she alleged.

The opposition leader called the recent Haldishaar incident a "terrible" one and alleged that government had failed to take any punitive action against persons responsible for the incident.

"The government is doing politics with the distressed people of Haldishaar," she said.

Hasina said government did nothing for the development of the port city of Chittagong. The Karnafuli Bridge was not constructed even two years after the cyclone that damaged it, she added.

In this context, she said the Bangladesh government had reconstructed about 750 bridges in the war ravaged country.

Earlier, the Awami League leader addressed a meeting of lawyers at the auditorium of Chittagong Bar Association.

She also visited the affected areas of Haldishaar and talked to the members of the affected families.

TV camera in jail room

I want justice: Ershad

The reported installation of closed circuit television camera in former president General Ershad's cell in Central Jail generated heat in the Special Judge's Court yesterday when it resumed proceedings in the corruption charges against the former president and others in Janata Tower case, reports BSS.

Immediately after the court began its proceedings with presiding Special Judge Anwaruddin Sikder in the chair, Advocate Yusuf Hussain Humayun, defence lawyer for the former president H M Ershad informed that TV camera has been installed in his cell's jail room in the detention's absence.

Describing the act as a "violation of Constitution", Advocate Humayun said the move will record all movements including private activities much to the embarrassment of his valued client. He sought redressal from the Attorney General and said such actions were also against jail code.

Ershad who was listening, stood up and taking chair's permission complained that he is not provided with any weekly, not allowed to use jail library and given only one daily. He wondered whether there was any justice in the country as camera was fitted in his room without his knowledge. "This is violation of fundamental rights and I want justice," he added.

Responding Attorney General said he was not aware of the development and also added it is a matter concerning the jail authority. He, however, stated that "manpower surveillance can be replaced by electronic surveillance as is the practice in most of the modern prisons".

Referring to his recent visit to the United States, the Attorney General said federal penitentiaries (jails) are using electronic surveillance for "controlling the jail and maintaining surveillance over prisoners."

Discarding defence claim of violation of human and fundamental rights, Attorney General said jail code is an "administrative guideline, not mandatory," he pointed out.

As for the infringement of constitutional rights raised by defence, the Attorney General said, "Constitutional safeguards are available to ordinary citizens, but not applicable to convicted persons undergoing sentence or punishment." He said it is true that fundamental rights are not operative in jails, although those are not fully "demonetised." In this "demonetised system, election surveillance is permitted," he explained. He further added even concealed camera is now used in many courtrooms of developed countries including England.

Taking the floor once again defence lawyer Humayun said since hearing on a complaint of lack of facilities and difficulties of his client is lying in High Court, such action (installation of camera) was undesirable.

He described the happening as "unfortunate" which would take away "privacy" which is an inalienable right of the former President.

Special Judge Anwaruddin Sikder remarked that the violation of constitution was beyond the jurisdiction of his court. He advised defence to submit a supplementary evidence to their High Court hearing on various allegations including setting up of camera in jail.

The court will resume today.

7 hurt as JCD, BCU clash at Beanibazar

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 24: Seven students were injured in a clash between the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) at Beanibazar Government College this noon.

The clash followed simultaneous processions by the organisations in the college premises. Jatiul Haq (20) of Chhatra Union was in critical condition.

In the afternoon, Juba League and Chhatra League (M-I) brought out processions protesting the clash.

The JCD also brought out a procession at the thana headquarters condemning the incident.

Meanwhile, several crackers were blasted and at least ten rounds of gunshots were fired when a group of armed young men attacked a saw mill at Tilagar area this afternoon.

The mill owner, an Awami League leader, Azur Rahman blamed the JCD for the incident. Rahman's house was also attacked. A case has been registered with the Kotwali police.

5-party demands repeal of black laws

The left leaning Five-party alliance yesterday urged the government to repeal all black laws to give democracy an institutional shape and also demanded ban on communal politics in the country, reports UNB.

Addressing a rally at Nur Hossain Square in the city in the afternoon, the alliance leaders also called on the people to be united in the fight against black laws and communal forces as well as in realising the just demands of teachers, students and different professional groups.

Foreign assistance

From Page 1 Col 4

been able to muster a good amount of internal resources, he said that the local funds continued to be limited.

"So, I think we will most certainly have to depend on foreign assistance and we would not be keen to ask for lesser level of foreign assistance."

However, he hastened to add that it did not mean that Bangladesh was not willing to be economically self-reliant and not trying to achieve independence in the management of its resources.

Saying that the disbursement level of foreign aid in recent years have generally met the internationally accepted targets and, at times even exceeded it, Chaudhury said that the disbursement rate during the first quarter of 1992-93 was the highest in the history of Bangladesh.

He noted that the criteria used by the World Bank and others to measure disbursement performance for food aid were using 100 per cent of the opening pipeline plus 75 per cent of the new commitments, for commodity aid 75 per cent of the pipeline and 25 per cent of the new commitments and for project aid at least 20 per cent of the opening pipeline.

The overall disbursement for the first quarter stood at 618 million US dollars and the project aid amount was 377 million dollars, which, he pointed out, was 33 per cent of the yearly estimate. There is no problem in the disbursement of food and commodity aid, he added.

The aid disbursement for FY '93 is estimated at 1918.5 million dollars, with 250 million dollars in food aid, 500 million dollars in commodity aid and 1168 million dollars in project aid.

The project aid disbursements, he added, in FY '88 stood at 94.6 per cent as against 100 per cent which is full conformity. In FY '89 it was 96.1 per cent, in FY '90 127 per cent, in FY '91 101 per cent, and in FY '92 102 per cent.

"So, you see the overall disbursements compare very favourably with our achievements in previous years and not only that but also with the internationally set standards," he added.

However, he noted that there were some bottlenecks

AL: Hartal

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Working Committee meeting was telephoned to UNB by Awami League presidium member Amir Hossain Amu.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abus Samad Azad described Sunday's incident in Chittagong "an attempt on party Chief Sheikh Hasina."

Another report said: AL presidium member Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP last night demanded immediate enquiry into what she called an attempt on life of Opposition Leader in Parliament Sheikh Hasina.

"It's yet another attempt on her (Hasina) life," Sajeda who is accompanying the opposition leader told UNB by telephone.

"She (Hasina) is under constant threat," Sajeda said, recalling the police firing on an anti-government procession the Awami League President led in the port city on this day in 1988.

Sajeda Chowdhury said a group of gunmen, their faces covered with black cloths, started indiscriminate firing and exploding bombs as soon as Hasina concluded her speech. The shots were directed at Hasina, she said.

"What does it indicate, what does it signal?" Sajeda questioned. She criticised the government for its failure to ensure the protection to opposition leaders and parliament members.

She demanded that the culprits must be arrested after proper investigation and punished.

Hasina in crossfire

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clash, police said.

The earlier clash took place at the meeting immediately before the arrival of Sheikh Hasina at the venue, police said adding that it occurred following a dispute over taking positions in front of the stage.

At the time cocktails were blasted and people ran to safety, witnesses and police said.

However, people again swarmed the venue to hear Sheikh Hasina's address when situation turned normal. But after the address of the Opposition leader the trouble resumed again sending people scampering to safety, witnesses said.

Some journalists who went to cover the meeting were allegedly assaulted in the melee.

UNB adds: Giving her initial reaction to the firing at the meeting venue, Sheikh Hasina said, "It was a planned attack on me by forces backed by the government." However, pressed by journalists, she did not rule out the possibility of involvement of Juba Command

Woman killed in road accident, one stabbed

By DMCH Correspondent

One person was killed and another was wounded in two separate incidents in the capital Sunday.

An unidentified woman of 45 died on the spot as she was run over by a speeding truck at Kawran Bazar early Sunday.

In another incident one Abdul Quader was stabbed and robbed of Taka 11,000 at Dhalpur under Demra police station Sunday evening.

When Quader was going to Golapbagh from Dhalpur, he was waylaid by some five muggers.

Ctg BCL leader succumbs to injuries

CHITTAGONG, Jan 24: The injured Chhatra League leader Shakhawat Hossain Arefin succumbed to injuries at Chittagong Medical College Hospital this noon, reports UNB.

Arefin, a student of Chittagong Government City College was admitted to the hospital on January 22 with serious injuries. He was allegedly attacked by Shibir activists on the day.

The Shibirites dragged him down from a tempo at Chhoto Kamaladah Bazar and cut off the tendons of his hand and legs.

JP women

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Most of the processionists fled after the police action but some 10 to 12 women pushed aside the police and continued the march to the Press Club.

During the scuffle, sarves of two women were torn and the JP women alleged that "police assaulted them to stop the procession."

The processionists were demanding immediate release their jailed party chief HIM Ershad and denouncing alleged harassment to them.

The female wing of the Party will hold a press conference Monday on the incident.

Children

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President Biswas said that at present there were 15 lakh blind people in the country.

Among an estimated 30 million blind people in the world, 80 per cent live in the developing countries, he said.

The President said that the number of blind in the developed countries could be ten times higher than in the developed states.

Blindness is related to poverty, he pointed out. Poor diet, lack of pure drinking water, absence of proper health services and sanitation systems were the main causes, he added.

President Biswas said that 80 per cent of blindness could be prevented or cured. The government and the NGOs must put in their best efforts to avert the situation, he said.

The President hoped that the APOA congress would contribute greatly to eradicate blindness in the Asia-Pacific region.

APAO President Professor Satchi Mishima, Secretary General Prof M Arthur Lim, President of the 14th congress of APOA Prof. M A Mattin and Vice-Presidents Prof M Mustafizur Rahman, and Dr Rabul Hossain also spoke at the opening ceremony of the five-day congress, first of its kind in the country.

At the opening ceremony, the Jose Rizal Medal, the highest honour bestowed by the APOA, was conferred upon Prof M A Mattin for his outstanding contribution to the field of Ophthalmology.

A total of 400 eminent eye doctors from home and abroad are taking part in the congress.

FAO DG

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born Director General of FAO.

A council meeting of FAO will be held in July during which the candidates would be short-listed, the sources added.

Saouma will be completing an unprecedented third consecutive term as the Director General of FAO later this year.

A controversial personality for his somewhat authoritative style, Saouma has been under strong criticism of several Western nations, including the United States, for his recruitment and spending policies.

Apart from Bangladesh, Chile, Australia, Germany, Ireland and India will also put up candidates for the post.

At the moment the chances of Ahmed of being elected to the top-most post in the UN system are considered moderate.

Some observers believe that the European countries would be trying hard to capture this important post.

Meanwhile, the Australian candidate recently visited Bangladesh to campaign for his candidature.

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Fire at tyre factory

By DMCH Correspondent

At least five persons sustained burn injuries as fire spread at a tyre factory at Subol Das Road at Lalbagh in the city last night.

Of the injured Ashraf, 22, Nazrul, 25, and Shahjahan, 25 were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Witnesses said that fire spread in the factory when a boiler exploded at around 8:30 pm last night.