

Concern over unplanned urbanisation

By Staff Correspondent

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Sunday urged experts to make scientific synthesis of tropical climates as some 100 world climatologists started a six-day deliberation in the capital Sunday expressing concern over rapid and unplanned urbanisation.

Inaugurating the international technical conference on "Tropical urban climates" as chief guest at the International Conference Centre, President Biswas said that the participating scientists would provide new information and make valuable suggestions on urbanisation policy with considerations to climatology.

Secretary General of World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) GOP Obasi was the special guest at the conference opening.

"Your wise counsel and valuable suggestions with regard to the climate and the environment system would be given due consideration by the government in policy planning and implementation of urbanisation programme," President Biswas said.

Climate experts from 35 countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, Japan, Canada and Germany are participating at the conference that will continue till April 2.

The urban population would double that in 1950 by 2025 and the increase would be in cities where supporting infrastructure was already strained, the WMO Secretary General said.

Student stabbed to death

By DMCH Correspondent

Harunur Rashid, a school student, was stabbed to death at Gulshan in the capital last night.

Unidentified men severely stabbed Rashid, 20, and left him near the Joyti cinema hall at Section-1, Gulshan at around 9:30 pm Sunday.

One Azrul Haq brought fatally wounded Rashid to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) but doctors on duty declared him dead.

Project implementation

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tion problems begin with project preparation, the report identified the pre-implementation problems as: design flaws in project preparation; lack of realistic programmes; larger target that possible scope of financing; inclusion of excess projects in ADP and the absence of a plan of operations for the projects.

"Frequently the cost and financing of projects is not properly accounted for due to lack of realistic overall review of the projects and in many cases public opinion or public involvement in a project is not considered," the report said "under such circumstances implementation of many projects are initiated with built-in problems."

Other problems in project implementation identified in the report were: delay in project approval; financial uncertainty; delay in receipt of foreign aid; excessive delay in appointing foreign consultants; manpower and administrative problems; land acquisition problems; contractor-related problems and the lack of coordination.

In order to remove the problems in project implementation, the report suggested preparation of realistic projects, projects in excess of available resources should not be included in ADP, setting a time-limit of project approval by ECNEC, ensuring foreign assistance for projects, timely steps to release funds and immediate appointment of local and foreign consultants after a project is approved.

"Project officials would work as counterparts with the consultants so that transfer of technology in project administration is done appropriately — this is imperative for turn-key projects," the report said, adding that accountability should be ensured if there is any deviation.

The report noted that a committee, headed by the Secretary, Cabinet Division, has already been formed to remove existing bottlenecks and delay in procurement of goods for the development projects.

Appointment of contractors should be made immediately after tender is approved and the contractor should be held accountable for any delay in his part while the IMD would pay special attention towards this problem, the report suggested. The report also sought an

Obasi, now on a six-day Bangladesh visit coinciding with the conference, said that by 2025, the world population was estimated to stand at 8.5 billion and much of this growth would be in cities of the developing countries.

Co-sponsored by the ESCAP, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, World Bank, WHO and ESCWA, the conference was organised by WMO, International Federation for Housing and Planning, International Geographical Union, International Council for Building Research Studies and Documentations, Bangladesh Met Department and BUET.

The inaugural session was chaired by Defence Secretary MA Malik and addressed by among others Hamiduzzaman Khan Chowdhury, Director Met office and Shameem Ara Hassan, Associate Professor BUET.

SC Bar Assoc polls today

By Staff Correspondent

The two-day voting for the election of a 15-member new committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association begins today (Monday).

Three panels and some individual candidates are contesting in the election in which some 1,300 voters across the country would elect the committee for one year.

The panels are: Barrister Amirul Islam—President with Mahub-e-Alam General Secretary, Kazi Golam Mahub as President and Harunur Rashid as GS and Justice Abdul Malek as President and Sirajur Rahman as GS.

Besides, three other independent candidates including the incumbent General Secretary Ali Asger Khan are also contesting in the election.

Association President Khadaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed kept himself away from the election.

The polling would begin at 10 am and continue till 4 without break on both days.



Lawyers brought out a silent procession protesting police assault on Jahanara Imam and other Nirmul Committee members in city yesterday.

Hasina

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out provocation and without imposing Section 144. Hasina also urged all to come forward unitedly to resist the anti-independence forces.

Five-party Alliance leader, Hasanul Haque Inu in another statement condemned the attack on the rally in which Jahanara Imam and many other leaders were injured.

He said the government would not be able to save itself by supporting the Jamaat-Shibir axis. He said the attack was in violation of the constitutional rights of the people.

Member of the Presidium of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Kazi Aref Ahmed and General Secretary, Hasanul Haque Inu in another statement condemned the attack and asked the government to refrain from committing such activities in the future. They also said such unconstitutional activities of the government would destroy democracy.

President of Jatiya Kabita Parishad, Syed Shamsul Haque and General Secretary, Mohan Raihan in a statement condemned the attack and demanded immediate resignation of the Home Minister.

Bangladesh Chhatra League brought out a protest procession and held a rally in front of its office condemning the attack.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Awami League leaders, Abdul-Lateef Siddiki, Advocate Shahera Khan and others.

The president of BCL, Motiuddin Hasan Chowdhury and General Secretary, Iqbal Rahim in a statement condemned the attack and said the people would not let the government's attitude go unchallenged.

Projnomo '71 in a statement also condemned the incident and urged all to join the movement against the killers of '71.

The convenor of Bangladesh Democratic Forum Dr Kamal Hossain condemning the police action demanded explanation from the government for this act of the law enforcing agencies.

While giving his reaction to the newsmen at the Jatiya Press Club on yesterday's police actions, Dr Kamal said that the atrocities by the law enforcing agencies only reflect the autocratic character of this government. He said that the government had violated the constitution by obstruction holding of meetings.

Earlier in the evening, Dr Kamal led a procession of lawyers from Supreme Court building, to protest the police action. The lawyers' procession was obstructed by police in front of Foreign Office, but later they were allowed to proceed towards the Press Club.

UNB adds: Three leading commanders of the country's Liberation War expressed their profound shock at the "repression and inhuman behaviour" by law enforcing agencies on freedom fighters in the city yesterday and on the independence Day.

In a joint statement last night, they said actions of the law enforcing agencies on March 28 and 29 caused injuries to many patriotic national leaders and renowned personalities, including respected Jahanara Imam.

The signatories to the statement are: Air Vice-Marshal (Rtd) AK Khandaker, Bir Uttam, who was Deputy Chief of Staff, Bangladesh Mukti Bahini, Major Gen (Rtd), KM Shafulah, Bir Uttam, Sector Commander No. 3, and Rafiqul Islam, Bir Uttam, Sector Commander No. 1, who was an Advisor to former acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

"We protest and condemn such actions," they said. "We express our solidarity with the injured freedom fighters, including Jahanara Imam."

The former Sector Commanders also called on the whole nation to stop recurrence of "such unfortunate and unwarranted incidents."

Jahanara Imam

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day's meeting to protest police action that foiled another rally of the organisation at Suhrawardy Udyan on Friday. Friday's meeting was called to mark the first anniversary of Golam Azam's public trial and to observe the Independence Day.

The three-hour barricade by the police and BDR yesterday turned a vast area in the heart of the city into a veritable war zone where vehicles went off the streets, pedestrians' movement became thin and controlled, shops and other business establishments downed shutters, stunned and panicky passers-by watched with awe the movements of the enforcers called out to keep vigil.

The security barricade, started at about 3 pm, was relaxed after the sunset. However, the police and BDR remained on duty until 8 pm when their withdrawal began from some points.

During the barricade, the riot police baton charged the Samannaya Committee workers six times as they tried to gather or bring out procession from within the cordoned off spot.

Seriously wounded committee leaders including Prof Abdul Mannan Choudhury, Lt Col Abu Osman Choudhury (ret'd), Aminul Haq Montu, Abdur Razzak, MP of Awami League were also rushed to the PG hospital.

"A reporter of the daily Banglabazar Patrika, Proshab Amin, injured in the incident, was treated at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Tapas Das, a Jagannath College student, was admitted to the DMCH.

Imam, Razzak accused of rioting on Friday

Staff Reporter

Motijheel police Friday lodged a case against Nirmul Samannaya Committee Convenor Jahanara Imam and Awami League leader Abdur Razzak accusing them of rioting.

Amirul Islam a sub-inspector of police, filed the case. The case number was 73(3)93, said police.

Charges brought against Imam and Razzak were under Sections 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting with deadly weapons), 149 (unlawful assembly), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 332 (voluntarily causing hurt to deter public servant from his duty), 225 (resistance or obstruction of another person), 224 (resistance or obstruction by a person to his lawful apprehension and 427 (mischievous causing damage to the amount of fifty taka or upwards) of the Bangladesh Penal Code (BPC), according to police.

In the FIR Amirul Islam said that while he along with other police men obstructed an 'unlawful' assembly of Samannaya Committee near Taher Auditorium at around 4:30 pm on Friday, a mob led by Imam and Razzak attacked the policemen with lethal and deadly weapons leaving three police constables injured and damaging helmets and shields of police.

Azam's case

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Earlier, after the hearing began on February 17, Barrister Yusuf completed placing the petition, the affidavit in opposition filed by the government, the affidavit of reply of the petitioner and also finished placing the 127-page split decision verdict on the writ given earlier by a division-bench comprising Justice Md Ismail Uddin Sarker and Justice Badrul Islam Choudhury.

Attorney General Aminul Haque represented the state at the hearing.

leaders, addressing a hurriedly-arranged Press Conference in the evening, named 27 leaders and workers wounded in police-beating. However, they said the figure would be more than 50.

Addressing the press conference at the Col Taher Auditorium of JSD (Inu) central office, Abdur Razzak, MP announced a nationwide demonstration programme on March 31.

"At this very moment, we are not going for programmes like hartal that may cause sufferings to the masses," Razzak said, "but we would be compelled to choose action stricter than hartal if the government continues to curb our fundamental rights."

Razzak accused the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her BNP government of violating articles 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40 of the country's Constitution. He also called on the pro-democracy people to resist the "government's attempt to violate the Constitution and snatch their fundamental rights."

Branding Khaleda government protector of the anti-liberation elements he said it had now joined the communal-fascist forces, against whom the whole nation was fighting.

Razzak commented, the police action of Friday and yesterday surpassed the atrocities of the autocratic regime.

"People won't allow this government to continue its autocratic practices unabated", he remarked.

Hasan Imam, another committee leader, quoted Jahanara Imam as saying from the hospital, "the government has curbed my fundamental right as a citizen and I demand trial from the world community for this injustice". Hasan Imam also quoted her as saying the countrymen should resist such acts by the government.

The Samannaya Committee list of the injured, cited by Kazi Aref, included: Poet Shamsur Rahman, Abdullah Sarker, Hasanul Haq Inu, Mohammad Afzal, Hasan Imam, Kazi Aref, Mofazzal Hossain Choudhury Maya, Dilip Barua, Motiuddin Khan Badal, Ahad Choudhury, Saiful Haq, Bibhash Amin, Abul Jalil, Shirin Akhter, Habibur Rahman Khan, Md Masud, and Md Hassanat.

The press conference was also attended by the leaders of the Awami League, Five-party Alliance and the Patriotic Democratic Front.

Yeltsin

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On the other side of Red Square, about 5,000 pro-Communist demonstrators waving red flags rallied in support of the Congress and the restoration of the Soviet Union.

The demonstrations occurred as the parliament was meeting several hundred meters (yards) away in the Grand Kremlin Palace. After much debate, the Congress decided not to oust Yeltsin.

Earlier Russia's Soviet-era Congress on Sunday voted to take control of state-owned broadcast media and news agencies, a step that a presidential aide said "turned back the clock on freedom of speech" by a decade.

On a vote of 537-263, the 1,033-member Congress of People's Deputies voted to strip President Boris Yeltsin of control of the two state-owned radio and television stations, as well as the government body that controls the two state news agencies, ITAR-Tass and the Russian Information Agency.

Deputies said the steps were necessary to prevent Yeltsin from waging a propaganda campaign against them and dragging Russia back to its authoritarian past.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher today reaffirmed US support for embattled Boris Yeltsin saying the cold war nuclear threat could be renewed if he falls.

"The stakes are just enormous," Christopher said on CBS television.

Li Peng elected for second-term

BEIJING, Mar 28: Premier Li Peng, hatchet man during the 1989 Tiananmen Square Crackdown, was named today to a second five-year term, ruling out any chance of short-term democratic reform in China, reports AFP.

Li, 64, was the only candidate for the post and his nomination was approved by the National People's Congress, or Parliament.

Delegates cast 2,573 ballots for Li, while 210 voted against him and 120 abstained.

He is the first premier since his adoptive father, Zhou Enlai, to serve more than one term.

The Soviet-trained premier is widely disliked here, in part for his conservative economic policies but especially for declaring martial law in Beijing during the pro-democracy movement.

But Li has tapped the support of Communist Party elders, many of whom believe that his removal would be a sign that the party doubted its decision to use the army on June 4, 1989.

Peacekeeper

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"Despite an emergency operation, he died from his injuries at 2:30 am this morning," said spokesman Eric Fall.

"This was probably an NADK (National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, or Khmer Rouge) attack," he said.

The hardline Khmer Rouge, who ruled the country from 1975 to 1978, was one of the four factions to sign the peace agreement but has since opted out and refused to take part in national elections scheduled for late May.

The Bangladeshi soldier was hit by shrapnel when his unit came under attack on Saturday night in Angkor Chum, 50 km (30 miles) northwest of the provincial town of Siem Reap.

The attack lasted three hours and was an outright attack on UN forces, Fall told reporters at a news briefing.

Sharif govt

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and discounted Chattha's lone walkout. However, the senior official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the resignations could be the first in a series that could topple Sharif's two and a half year old government.

"The process has started," he said.

Sharif enraged Ishaq Khan last month when he announced he had set up a committee to slash the powers of the president, who can now dissolve parliament and appoint chiefs of staff of the powerful armed forces under a martial law-era regulation.

"Democratic freedom often gives birth to selfish desires labelled as public aspirations," Ishaq Khan said in harsh criticism of Sharif in a speech on Pakistan day on Tuesday.

Both Chattha and the late Junejo's son are reported to be close to the president while Saifulah is his son-in-law.

Bail petitions of Nasir, Mahmud rejected

By Court Correspondent

A magistrate in Dhaka Sunday rejected bail petitions of former Defence Forces Intelligence (DFI) chief Brigadier (ret'd) Nasiruddin and a retired Naval officer Lieutenant Commander AHM Mahmud. The magistrate also rejected a petition seeking their remand.

Both the retired defence officers were arrested in connection with the murder of a Deputy Superintendent of Customs Abdur Rouf. Rouf was tortured to death at the DGF headquarters, Dhaka Cantonment, on May 27, 1983.

The Midnight File

Right-wing parties sweep French polls

PARIS, Mar 28: Right-wing parties won an overwhelming majority of 482 seats in the 577-seat national assembly in France's legislative elections today, poll projections said. The Socialist Party of President Francois Mitterrand did better than expected with between 68 and 75 seats, polling institutes said, reports AFP.

Bihar ferry capsizes: All aboard swim to safety

NEW DELHI, Mar 28: A ferry capsized in Bihar Sunday, but all 50 people on board swam ashore to safety, United News of India news agency reported. Officials had earlier erroneously reported that the ferry was carrying 150 people and that all of them were feared drowned, United News said, reports AP.

Indian troops in Kashmir put on alert

NEW DELHI, Mar 28: Indian troops in Kashmir have been put on alert amid fears that large numbers of Muslim militants are planning to sneak across the border with Pakistan, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today. The news agency quoted official sources as saying they had received reports that 3,000 to 5,000 Pakistani-trained Muslim militants planned to sneak across the Line of Control dividing Indian- and Pakistani-held Kashmir, reports AFP.

Cong warns Pakistan

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Beant Singh urged a tough stand against Pakistan, saying that was the only language India's arch rival understood.

"Pakistan is hatching conspiracies to destroy India, be it Punjab, be it anywhere else," he said, "we must take a tough attitude towards Pakistan... we should teach a lesson to Pakistan."

The resolution accused the 'rulers of Pakistan' of promoting terrorism, saying no progress was possible in resolving thorny bilateral disputes unless Islamabad stopped backing the Sikh and Muslim insurgents.

"While India stands for a resolution of disputes between the two countries by dialogue it is doubtful of any result while Pakistan's involvement in terrorism in India continues and expands," it said.

Islamabad denies charges of direct involvement in Kashmir by extends moral support to the Muslim insurgency which it calls a legitimate struggle for self-determination. It denies any role in the Sikh campaign.

A senior Indian leader in charge of Bombay said Pakistanis, possibly Islamabad's main Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency, organised the bombings in India's commercial capital.

"Organisations in Pakistan are involved, may be the ISI, Sharad Pawar told Reuters during a high-level meeting of his ruling Congress Party in the Indian town of Surajkund.

Pawar said suspects detained in connection with the bombs said they had been taken to Pakistan for explosives and weapons training and there for a few days.

He said the suspects were shown maps and pointed to a place near the Pakistani city of Lahore as the location of the training site.

Pawar said further evidence came from explosives seized following interrogation of the Bombay suspects.

"Some of the explosives which we go, from the packing material, packets and boxes, there is evidence that it was manufactured or brought from Pakistan," he said.

Gas pipeline issue

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Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) is the convenor of the probe committee. Other two members are KM Siddiquallah, Director General of IMED, and Hafizuddin Khan Additional Secretary of the Prime Ministers office.

Prior to constituting the committee, the government agreed to provide 14 million US dollar to Saipem as compensation for delay in the project completion amidst pressure from the World Bank — the financier of the project. Saipem argued that the delay was caused due to public chaos in Golapganj in later part of 1991.

But the inquiry committee held inefficiency and lapses on

Case challenging Mirpur bypoll results today

By Staff Correspondent

The case challenging the Mirpur bye-election results by Awami League candidate Kamal Ahmed Majumder, would be filed with the election tribunal today.

According to a source close to the petitioner on Sunday, the application for the case is likely to challenge the announcement of the unofficial results through the government-controlled media and also the recounting process for, what he said, the failure of the Returning Officer, under whose custody the ballots remained, "to conform to the minimum legal requirements".

The Prime Minister and a number of other ministers, the source added, are also likely to be made party to the case for "unduly influencing the by-polls and for allowing state resources to be used" in favour of the ruling party candidate Syed Md. Mohsin.

The application for the case would be filed by Barrister Amir-ul-Islam on behalf of the petitioner.

that some explosives recovered by Bombay police appeared to have come from Pakistan.

"The West should support our thinking that Pakistan should be declared a terrorist state," Pawar said.

"In January, the United States added Pakistan to a list of states allegedly sponsoring terrorism and said it would review the decision in four to six months.

Pakistan has said it will hunt and deport six members of the Memon family, alleged by police to be Bombay Muslim mafia dons, who India says fled to Pakistan from Dubai. Some went shortly before and some shortly after the Bombay bombs exploded.

"Our people are working hard to find out if we can lay our hands on these people," Pak Foreign Secretary Akram Zaki said.

Bombay police have arrested 13 people in connection with the worst series of bombs India has seen in a single city on one day. Pawar said they were taken to Pakistan and they have been trained there for a few days.

He said the suspects were shown maps and pointed to a place near the Pakistani city of Lahore as the location of the training site.

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Train mishap

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sengers were trapped in the wrecked cars, Yonhap. South Korea's national news agency, said. Some were heard groaning inside a crumpled car as workers with heavy equipment tried to rescue them, it added.

Television footage showed bodies and debris tangled under the cars and firefighters cutting away steel wheels to reach a blood-soaked leg.

Rescue workers were short of ambulances, so trucks were mobilized to carry bodies to nearby hospitals, Yonhap said.

The probe committee recommended legal action against the officials it held responsible in the report. Also, it called for blacklisting Saipem in Bangladesh.

Interests of the government were not given due cognizance during the the whole process, the committee report said.

The committee also criticised the World Bank for giving undue support to Saipem and suggested that donor agencies should not have the final say about performance of contractors.

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