

# 'Make people confident in fighting disasters'

By Staff Correspondent

Informative books on disasters in Bangladesh would make people more confident in fighting calamities.

This was observed by speakers at the launching ceremony of the book 'Disaster management handbook for Bangladesh'. They also urged that more such books be published.

The book, in four volumes, written by the Director of Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC) Md Saidur Rahman and sponsored by Pact-Bangladesh deals in four areas, namely pre-disaster stage, planning a disaster response, operational response during and after a disaster and record keeping (of post disaster activities and expenditure).

The ceremony, held at the National Press Club, was addressed among others by Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, as chief guest, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad and the US Ambassador to Bangladesh William B Milam as special guests.

Executive Director of Pact-Bangladesh Richard Holloway and Saidur Rahman.

Stressing on the importance of the book, Badruddoza said, 'The book will be properly useful when it reaches the public affected by the disasters. After sending the books to the people, the people should also be trained to fight

disasters.' The chief guest said that the book should be distributed among union chairmen, Union Parishad members, village school teachers and other closely related with the consequences of disasters.

Badruddoza also stressed the need to campaign for cheaper methods to survive in post-disaster situations.

Stressing on the need to develop a better weather warning signal system, Abdus Samad Azad said that everybody must come forward in building Bangladesh irrespective of their differences of opinion or party interests.

W B Milam said that he was touched by the spirit of the general people who thronged to the remote areas of the country to help people after the devastating cyclone in April '91. He said, during the period, the people, the NGOs, the donor agencies and the government set an example of cooperation.

Through the '91 disaster, 'all of us understood the need for flexibility and cooperation,' the US Ambassador said and added that there was an abundance of human resources in Bangladesh that the country could easily utilise during disasters.

The publication ceremony was held yesterday, the eve of the second anniversary of the cyclone of 1991.



Opposition allies holding a meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in city yesterday. — Star photo

## Hasina

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The country had no freedom. Although BNP had made commitment, the 'black indemnity Ordinance' has not yet been scrapped, she told the meeting.

'Nothing—life and property, spirit and values of Liberation War and democracy—is secure in the hands of this government,' Hasina said.

The opposition leader called for safeguarding democracy and restoring spirit and objectives of independence war by building united resistance against all 'undemocratic and autocratic' activities of the ruling party. Criticising the BNP chief for what she said squandering public money, she said like Ershad, Begum Zia was also travelling the country by helicopter at the cost of national exchequer.

Hasina referred to the condition of the people in rural areas and said growers were deprived of fair price of their produce. Opposition move in parliament to reduce the prices of diesel and pesticides was rejected by BNP by 'no vote.'

## Border talks

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puted territories, activity of 'Nikhil Bangla Nagarik Sangha', illegal manufacture of firearms and forgery of Bangladeshi currency by Indian nationals.

A 20-member Bangladesh delegation was led by Major General Mohammad Anwar Hossain, Director General of Bangladesh Rifles, while an 11-member Indian delegation was headed by T Ananthachari, Director General of BSF.

Another report adds: Visiting Director General of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) T Ananthachari yesterday called on Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and discussed matters of mutual interests, including checking of cross-border crimes.

Officials said issues like law and order situation in the bordering areas, illegal immigrants, insurgency, smuggling, forgery of currency and drug trafficking came up prominently in the talks at the Home Minister's secretary office.

Home Secretary Azim Uddin Ahmed, Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh K Raghunath, Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Mohammad Anwar Hossain and other high officials of the two countries were present in the meeting.

Describing the illegal activities like forgery of currency and drug trafficking as common problems, both the sides stressed for curbing it immediately and underscored mutual help in this respect.

## Y'slav war

From Page 1 Col 6

decision this week. Before that happens, Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected to travel to Western Europe and Russia for a final round of consultations with allies.

Reuter says: the US Air Force chief of staff said today that bombing Serbian artillery positions in the former Yugoslavia would be completely effective and pose 'virtually no risk' to attacking planes.

General Merrill McPeak, the top-ranking Air Force officer told a Senate appropriations sub-committee give us time and we will order (strikes) on every one of those artillery positions and put it out of business.

Meanwhile, intense Serb-Muslim fighting has broken out around the UN-protected Muslim enclave of Srebrenica despite a ceasefire accord and the town's hospital is filling with wounded, UN officials said today.

UN peace-keeping troops were deployed in Srebrenica under a demilitarisation agreement 10 days ago to stop a Serb artillery bombardment. But Serb commanders have said the besieged town is not properly disarmed and have threatened to cut off humanitarian access to it.

# Russia may increase arms supply : Rao

NEW DELHI, Apr 28:

Shipments of defence supplies from former Soviet republics for the Indian military have resumed since Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit here. Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao said today, reports AFP.

Rao, who also holds the defence portfolio, made the announcement during a parliamentary debate on demands by the Defence Ministry for more funds for India's million-plus army, air force and navy.

The supplies have started from Russia and Ukraine and are likely to pick up further," Rao said, attributing the resumption of Yeltsin's five-day landmark visit to India in January.

'The situation has changed for the better,' the Prime Minister said, referring to the virtual stoppage of shipments of military spare parts following the December 1991 breakup of the former Soviet Union.

Rao said the first flight of the LCA, the Mig fighters would be in June next year and that production could begin a year later. 'We are committed to the project,' he added.

Speaking about India's atomic programme, Rao said that despite its nuclear energy capabilities New Delhi had not embarked on any programme to manufacture nuclear weapons.

'We have no designs to conquer any country,' he said a day after Deputy Defence Minister K Mallikarjun said India was ready to face a nuclear threat from Pakistan or any other country.

'If there is a nuclear threat, I don't think India should be afraid of any eventuality from any corner for any reason at anytime,' Mallikarjun said.

## Huda

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nee Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury had met Golam Azam and sought his blessing and paved the way for Golam Azam to become the Ameer of Jamaat.

Tracing the long history of Jamaat-Awami League alliance, he said Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared general amnesty in 1973 which had paved the way for his (Sheikh Mujib's) friend Golam Azam to come into Bangladesh.

He said with the cooperation from Sheikh Mujib's daughter Sheikh Hasina Gatak Dalal Nirmla Committee, had helped Golam Azam to become the citizen of Bangladesh.

Barrister Huda regretted that the Golam Azam issue had helped him (Golam Azam) to become a false hero from zero and this Golam Azam issue had now been causing disruption in implementation of BNP government's massive development programmes.

Barrister Huda was addressing a huge public meeting here this afternoon at Dandabar organised by Savar Thana BNP, Mohammad Ashraf, former VP of JUCSU and local UP Chairman Abdul Karim also spoke.

## Four killed in Pabna mishaps

PABNA, Apr 28: Four people, including two minor children, were killed in separate incidents in the district today, reports UNB.

Nayeb Ali (5) and Ambia (7), son and daughter of Ismail Hossain of village Bonoari Nagar in Faridpur thana of the district drowned in the river nearby their house while they were taking bath at around 9 am today.

In another incident, a van driver was crushed under the wheels of a Dhaka bound bus from Rajshahi near Gachhi Para on the Pabna-Ishurdi highway in the morning.

The victim identified as Rekat Ali Kha (45) of village Bhorapur in Atgoria thana of the district died on the spot.

Meanwhile, Sathia police today recovered a beheaded body buried under the Gangarampur bridge.

The body was identified as Abdul Malek (48) of village Gangarampur. Police arrested Abdul Alim of the same village suspecting his involvement in the killing.

# Mazari distributes portfolios

ISLAMABAD, Apr 28:

Caretaker Prime Minister Ishaq Khan has distributed portfolios to all but one of his interim cabinet that will run Pakistan until elections on July 14, officials said today, reports Reuter.

New Finance Minister Farooq Leghari, Deputy Leader of Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), will also take on the Foreign Affairs portfolio in the caretaker government — a coalition of defectors from the former ruling Pakistan Muslim League Party and the PPP.

Hamid Nasir Chattha, the first minister to defect from Sharif's government, will handle Communications in addition to Planning and Development.

Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari, still facing charges in of extortion and corruption in an anti-terrorist court in the southern port of Karachi, was allocated the Ministry of Water and Power.

Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani and Anwar Saifullah, both ministers in Sharif's government, will handle Defence and Housing and Works respectively, while PPP stalwart Afiaz Sherpao will hold the Defence portfolio.

The expected recipient of the Law portfolio, Aitzaz Ahsan, Interior Minister in Bhutto's 1988-1990 government, has yet to be allocated a ministry.

and one special assistant. Arbab Jehangir Khan will hold Petroleum and Natural Resources, Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi will be responsible for Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis and Baluchistan tribal leader Ahmad Nawaz Bugti will hold Special Education and Social Welfare.

Sardar Wazir Jogezi will be minister for Women's Development, Ghulam Rahim will hold Political Affairs and Tanvir Ul-Hassan Gilani will be responsible for Parliamentary Affairs.

Labour goes to Zahid Sarfraz, Management Services to Manzoor Ahmad Gichki and Local Government and Rural Development to Sardar Fateh Hasni.

Another report from Peshawar says: Celebratory gunfire and huge crowds greeted Pakistan's sacked Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif when he led his campaign against President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to the North West Frontier Province early today.

'We will throw him out with the power of the people,' Sharif told a rally in the provincial capital Peshawar.

Cheering supporters brandishing Kalashnikov rifles fired hundreds of rounds into the air when Sharif arrived in the early hours of the morning at a rally in a city square.

# Rural poor should get access to bank credit facilities'

From Staff Correspondent

RANGPUR, Apr 28: Speakers at a national seminar here today emphasised the need for providing the rural poor access to credit facilities offered by the commercial banks, as part of a poverty alleviation plan.

Discussions at the follow-up seminar on the Tk 50 crore Marginal and Small Farm Systems Crop Intensification Project (MSFSCIP) initiated last year in Kurigram district under which a loan programme by four commercial banks were undertaken, agreed that a sizeable portion of rural savings does exist and that the rural poor can successfully utilise the credit facilities to improve productivity and boost their income.

However, they pointed out that the existing credit delivery systems of the commercial banks need to be simplified in order to reach a larger number of people.

A total of 2902 individual marginal farmers belonging to 462 self-help groups were provided with credit worth Tk 1.02 crore out of a loan portfolio of Tk 14 crore under the project, during the February 93 to March 93 period.

Funded jointly by the government, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the target area of the project includes 68,000 rural households of marginal and small farm families in all nine thanas of Kurigram.

Held at the Parjatan Motel, the seminar was participated by senior officials from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Bangladesh Bank, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RKUB), Sonali Bank, Agrani Bank, Janata Bank GTZ, IFAD, Rangpur-Dinajpur Rural Service (RDERS) and other local officials.

Because of the low disbursement level of the loan amount of the project, discussion at the seminar called for extending the project period by another three years upto June 1996. The project was scheduled to end on June this year.

## OIC condemns

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August 1990 but was forced to withdraw in early 1991 in the Gulf War.

On Tuesday, Kuwait said Iraqi agents had planned to assassinate former US President George Bush during his recent visit to Kuwait to destabilise the Emirate.

The OIC said in a resolution it deplores that the Iraq government has not fully complied with the UN resolutions, indicating the harbouring of aggressive intentions which necessitates the maintenance of the sanctions imposed by the (UN) Security Council.

It condemned as 'illegal acts' the torturing and killing of Kuwait citizens during the invasion.

The OIC held Iraq 'responsible for the human and material damages inflicted upon Kuwait and other countries, and demands from Iraq compensation for those losses,' it said.

# The Midnight File

## Benazir to visit US next week

KARACHI, Apr 28: Former Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto is to visit the United States next week to speak in Atlanta on Tuesday at the invitation of the CNN broadcasting network, her spokesman announced here today. Bhutto, whose own government was sacked by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in August 1990, supported the dissolution of the National Assembly and dismissal of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif by the President April 18, reports AFP.

## Lankan mourners clash with cops

COLOMBO, Apr 28: Security forces clamped an eight hour night curfew in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo after mourners clashed with police at a funeral here for slain opposition leader, Lalith Athulathmudali, military officials said. Military officials said the curfew in the capital would go into effect immediately and be lifted at 4.00 am (11.30 GMT). The measure was taken after mourners fought pitched battles with police and torched several vehicles, reports AFP.

## SC clarification

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pletely out of context. Justice Mostafa Kamal told the Attorney General that when the High Court division declares an order of detention as illegal then the long-standing practice is to release the detenu and then to file a petition for leave to appeal to the Appellate Division for settlement of law points.

In the present case the High Court Division has only issued a declaratory order which as such is incapable of being stayed. The High Court Division has not issued any executive order and the question of release of Golam Azam is sub-judice.

The Judge observed, 'Perhaps you (Attorney General) want to submit that unless stay is granted it becomes an obligation on the part of the government to release the respondent on which the government has some difficulties and as such there should be a stay.'

The Attorney General replied that was his submission. Then the Judge asked the Attorney General what did he mean by saying that law and order situation will deteriorate and civil administration will not be able to contain it. The Court cannot function under such threat.

The Attorney General replied that no threat was intended to the Court. We are sorry for the statement. Justice ATM Afzal then said, 'Even if it was not a threat it was like putting the Court to duress.'

## 48-hr Power

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great extent with the completion of two new power plants—the Rajuan Power Plant in Chittagong and the 5th unit of Ghorasal Thermal Power Plant. It is expected that with the completion of these two projects and overhauling of the sick units, the country's daily production of electricity will rise to 2,541 megawatt.

PDB supplies electricity to its 9,50,000 consumers through 262 distribution centres. The World Bank had suspended credits to the power sector in early 1991 when the chronic system loss shot up to 42 per cent. However, the Bank has of late lifted the suspension after the energy sector showed some signs of improvement in management.

The system loss in the power sector was brought down to 34.6 per cent in recent months by streamlining the operations of the PDB, DESA and the REB.

## 4 murdered in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 28: Four persons were killed overnight Tuesday in two villages in the district, police and villagers said Wednesday.

One Majnu, 32, of Ratanpur village was slaughtered by unidentified gang at Shsan-nagar area under Jhenidah sadar thana while three other were killed by unknown assailants at Charbishnudia under Hartnakundu thana, they said.

The three victims were identified as Shariful, 26, of Shantidanga, Kushtia, Amr, 24, and Jabbar, 27, of Mirpur thana, Kushtia. Police could not ascertain the cause of the killings but suspected that it might be the upshot of feud between underground groups.

## 3 ex-PMs

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Mallikarjun said Vishwanath Pratap Singh owed 7,500 dollars for hiring military planes for private travel during his 11-month tenure as Prime Minister ending November 1990.

Another report says, India's state-owned domestic carrier is grounding four Boeing 737s, each more than 20 years old, following a plane crash which killed 56 people, officials said today.

The decision to ground the four planes was taken by the Civil Aviation Ministry Tuesday, a day after a Boeing 737 inducted 19 years ago crashed in the western Indian city of Aurangabad, the officials said.

## Aid Club

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labour disputes had led to very difficult labour-management relations, with a large number of strikes and lock-outs. The donors argued against the implementation of the Wages and Productivity Commission awards saying it would widen the gap between wages and productivity and render public sector units less viable.

Bangladesh delegation leader M Saifur Rahman, economic pointsman of Prime Minister Begum Zia, at the aid group meeting listed the measures undertaken by the present government and said the government would continue to give focused attention to trade liberalisation, privatization, financial sector reform, industrial deregulation and improved labour relations.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

**New :**  
Janata Bank  
Mymensingh Stadium Branch  
Jail Road  
Municipal Holding No. 74  
Mymensingh

**Old :**  
Janata Bank  
Mymensingh Stadium Branch  
Jail Road  
Municipal Holding No. 135  
Mymensingh

“The  
Mymensingh  
Stadium Branch  
Has been  
Shifted  
To the  
New address  
Today the  
29th April '93.”

We draw kind attention of our patrons.

### Janata Bank

Devoted to the service of the Motherland

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