'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 pub-

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 people, the people should also be trained to fight

Former treasury chief of BCCI Overseas on police remand

LONDON, Apr 28: The former head of Treasury at BCCI Overseas, Syed Ziauddin Ali Akbar, was today charged in a London court and remanded in custody, said the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), the agency investigating the collapsed bank, reports Reuter. Akbar, who was extradited

from France on Tuesday on a request by the British government, was charged with 20 offences of false accounting.

He was escorted to London by police and held overnight before his appearance in the city of London Magistrate's court, said a statement from the SFO, the arm of the attorney general's office that deals with white-collar crime.

BCCI Overseas, registered in the Cayman Islands; was part of the BCCI banking group, which the SFO is investigating following its closure in 1991.

Regulators swooped on BCCI offices worldwide on July 5, 1991, on allegations of massive fraud.

The British liquidators last week said there was a 13.9 billion dollar "blacks hole" in the books of BCCI when it was closed.

Much of the money went into allegedly fictitious loans and was channelled into complex offshore companies in the Middle. East, said the liquidators, accountants.

Ogata to sign

From Page 1 Col 4 The proposal, awaiting approval of the government, covers repair of roads, renovation of schools and supply of medical equipment to local hospitals and health centres.

Such welfare projects are necessary as local people's initial welcome is waning with the continued presence of the refugees. Protests demanding an early repatriation of the Rohingyas have become routine in the region where many blame the refugees for destruction of forests and damag-

ing their cropland. The repatriation that began September last year has remained painfully slow. Since then a little more than 22,000 refugees returned to their home in Myanmar's western province of Arakan with an estimated 243,000 Rohingyas still languishing in camps."

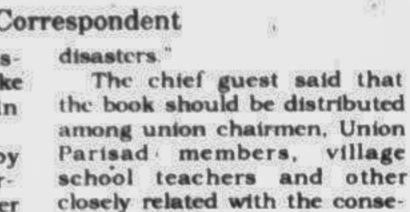
The repatriation is slow mainly because many of the refugees refuse to return home until human rights conditions improve in Myanmar (Burma). More specifically the refugees want Myanmar to allow the UNHCR to monitor their rehabilitation in Arakan, a demand Yangon has rejected.

The Muslim refugees started fleeing to Bangladesh since the summer of 1991 and soon their numbers swelled to 2,65,000.

They brought with them harrowing tales of murders, forced conscription by

Myanmar soldiers and rapes. Many refugees interviewed said that they were afraid of returning home because there was no guarantee that their life is safe back home.

Currently, the would-be returnees are interviewed by UNHCR officials to determine if they are going back voluntar-



quences 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 cooper ation," the US Ambassador said and added that there was an abundance of human resources in Bangladesh that the country could easily utilise during dis-

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

JS boycott

From Page 1 Col 7

the four-point charter of demands including execution of a People's Court verdict on Golam Azam and banning his Jamaat-e-Islami Party would also be announced, he added.

The AL-led opposition parties were also determined to carry out action programmes separately and in alliance with the Samannaya Body unless the organisation's demands were fulfilled, insiders said.

Government action against the demonstrators during the Samannaya Committee's sit-in April 25 around the secretariat prompted the organisation to announce the May 9 pro-

As that of April 25, the AL and its 11 pro-Liberation allies in the Five-Party combine, the four-party Patriotic Democratic Front and the Ganatantrik Party are expected to participate actively in the JS sit-in programme, insiders said adding that parleys among the central leaders of the parties and the Committee had already begun in this regard.

The Samannaya Committee has decided to meet soon with the political parties supporting it to find out ways and means as to how a higher turnout than that of April 25 could be ensured May 9.

The Committee would separately hold dialogues with the political parties, labour bodies, socio-cultural and student organisations and professional groups, sources said and added schedules for such talks would be decided within a day or two.

Meanwhile, the Samannaya leaders are working for the maximum publicity of their May 9 programme through holding rallies and processions in and outside the capital in a bid to drum up support for the programme.

1200 families

From Page 1 Col 5

reached Block- E. Mirpur Section-12, in the morning for eviction of the unauthorised slum, hundreds of people resisted them with leathal weapons and at one stage the mob set the houses on fire.

Earlier, the slum dwellers brought out a processions and demonstrated on the streets in protest against the eviction.

A government official said "the land is owned by Housing and Settlement Directorate and the slum dwellers who were staying there illegally were asked to vacate the land several times.

The local people said that they were residing on the land for a long time and the ousted President H M Ershad and later on the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia assured them that they would not be evicted from the land.

Local people also said that a group of influential people set up the slum and its dwellers had to pay rent of Tk 50 to Tk 100 monthly for each of the thatched houses.

However, the authorities completed the eviction at around 5 pm yesterday and police cordoned off the vacant land until last night to prevent the slum dwellers from occupying the land again, said po-

No severe injuries were reported during the series of clashed between the police and slum dwellers or in the fire incident. No arrest was made, said police.



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

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 8 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 govern ment," Hasina said.

The opposition leader called for safeguarding democracy and restoring spirit and objectives of independence war by building united resisagainst "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

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

Border talks

From Page 1 Col 7 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 11member 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 secretariat 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 al-

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: ing the December 1991 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 follow-

conquer any country," he said a day after Deputy Defence Minister K Mallikarjun said India was ready to face a nu-

clear threat from Pakistan or

any other country.

breakup of the former Soviet

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

atomic programme, Rao said

that despite its nuclear energy

capabilities New Delhi had not

embarked on any programme

to manufacture nuclear

"We have no designs to

Speaking about India's

to the project," he added.

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

Huda

From Page 1 Col 8 nec Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury had met Golam Azam and sought his blessing and paved the way for Golam Azam to become the Ameer of

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 Nirmul 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 develop-

ment 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 bathe at around 9 am today.

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

The victim identified as Rekat Ali Kha (45) of village Bhoratpur in Atghoria 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 and one special assistant.

ISLAMABAD, Apr 28: Caretaker Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari 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 Faroog 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 addito 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 Aftab 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. The Prime Minister has

named 17 ministers, two spe-

cial advisers with cabinet rank

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 Jogezai 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 Fatch 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 bran-

dishing 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. The firing continued for

several minutes while the crowd shouted slogans denouncing Ishaq Khan for dismissing Sharif.

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.

Discussants 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

However, they pointed out that the existing credit delivcry 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 (RDRS) and other local

Because of the low disbursement level of the loan amount of the project, discussant 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

OIC condemns From Page 1 Col 7

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 déstabilise

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 Shri Lankan capital Colombo after mourners clashed with police at a funeral here of 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 From Page 1 Col 8

pletely out of context.

Justice Mostafa Kamal told the Attorney General that when the High Court division declares an order of detention as filegal 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 settle ment of law points.

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

The Judge observed, "Per haps 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 submis sion. 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 From Page 1 Col 7

great extent with the completion of two new power plantsthe Raujan Power Plant in Chittagong and the 5th unit of Ghorasal Tharmal 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 sus-

pended credits to the power sector in early 1991 when the cronic 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 Shsannagar area under Jhenidah sadar thana while three other were killed by unknown assailants at Charbishnudia under Harinakundu thana, they

The three victims were

identified as Shartful, 26, of Shantidanga, Kushtia, Amir. 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

From Page 1 Col 5 Mallikarjun said Vishwa-

nath 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 7375, 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

From Page 1 Col 5 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

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.

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