

Dhaka district BNP defends Huda

The Bangladesh National Party (BNP) Dhaka district unit and its thana units leaders yesterday hailed the factual statement made by Information Minister Nazmul Huda MP in the Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.

In a joint statement they said, it is expected of a patriotic leader that he should present everything to the nation clearly.

The BNP leaders said he has done the job of a wise parliamentarian by expressing his personal regret to assure the Opposition with a view to keeping the Sangsad effective.

This has demonstrated his broadness, they said adding "He is a straight forward man and speaks the truth."

They said that the Opposition leaders boycotted Parliament as he (Information Minister) spoke the truth with determination. They pointed out that the condition put by the Opposition, if accepted, would amount to shifting the very concept of nationalist politics introduced by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

They said BNP cannot move an inch backward from its political ideology because the nation has great expectation pinned in the BNP. Keeping that in view Huda, as a nationalist leader, has just done his duty, they said.

The people of this country have not yet forgotten the statement of Leader of the

Croats, Muslims agree on constitution

VIENNA, Mar 9: Negotiations on a constitution for a Croat-Muslim federation in Bosnia have been completed. Bosnian Justice Minister Kasem Trnka said here Wednesday at the US embassy where the talks are being held.

Delegations would now turn to other subjects, he said.

These include linking the Bosnian grouping in a confederation with Croatia, military arrangements on the ground between the mainly-Muslim Bosnian army and Bosnian Croat forces, which are cur-

rently observing a ceasefire, and practical implementation of the constitution.

Croatian Deputy Foreign Minister Ivo Sanader, head of the Zagreb delegation here, meanwhile set out some of the constitutional details in an interview with the Austrian paper Der Standard.

The President and Vice-President of the new Croat-Muslim federation would be democratically elected for a four-year term and the presidency would be rotated each year between a Croat and a Muslim. The same system would apply for the post of Prime Minister, and government ministers would have deputies. The number would depend on ethnic majorities, meaning the Muslims would have more ministers than the Croats, Sanader explained.

The federation would encompass 54 per cent of Bosnia-Herzegovina, achieved by the Serbs ceding about three or four per cent of currently held territory to the Muslims, Sanader said.

The deceased was identified as Jahanir, 20.

According to sources, one group led by the former chairman of Hogobari Union and the other by Vagol Sardar clashed at Kallyanpur Bazaar reportedly over the possession of a piece of land which left Jahanir killed and six others hospitalised. The other injured were released after first aid.

Shortly afterwards, police arrested two persons, Afzaluddin and Azahar Ali, from the scene.

In 1931, the rivalry between the two factions left two persons killed. One of the accused Afzaluddin was convicted and awarded life sentence. His sentence was later reduced to seven years under a general amnesty.

The Ganges, Kababik Project is seriously threatened due to lack of water. According to water monitoring records of the Ganges at Hardinge Bridge, if the trend continues as happened in April 1993, the planned irrigation programme will be completely upset for the dry season due to the reduced flow in the Ganges.

The pumps can operate at only 50 per cent efficiency depriving the farmers of irrigation water for their crops. Many of the pumps are not operating at full efficiency. Tubewells for drinking water have been seriously affected due to lowering of ground water level.

During the visit, the experts

noticed that more than 60 per cent of the peers of the Hardinge Bridge were completely high and dry. Navigation is practically non-existent due to lowering of the water level and formation of sand bars and shoals.

The famous Hilsa is almost gone, other varieties of fish are now becoming extinct. Certain local birds, animals and wetlands are not to be seen any more. The process of desertification is taking place in the North Western parts of the country and salinity is increasing and encroaching from the south.

River Gora, the only tributary of the Ganges supplying fresh water towards South West region of Bangladesh was completely closed due to sand bars at the mouth. This will increase salinity in the South, particularly affecting the industries of Khulna.

The Sundarbans, world's largest mangrove forest, is now under threat of extinction due to lack of fresh water and increase in salinity.

Human and fish diseases are on increase in the affected areas. The lack of flow of the Ganges during dry period also causes heavy siltation and overflooding during the monsoon.

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Clinton greets Biswas, Khaleda

US President William J Clinton has felicitated President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr, reports BSS.

In a message to Biswas Clinton said, "Please accept my sincere wishes for a most blessed Eid-ul-Fitr. The American people join me in extending greetings to you and all the people of Bangladesh on this joyous occasion. May you, your family and your country receive the blessings of peace and prosperity at this holy time."

In a separate message sent to Begum Zia, Clinton said, "On the joyous occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, it gives me great pleasure to extend to you and the people of Bangladesh the best wishes of the American people. Our countries share many common values, and I hope that we will continue to work together to advance the causes of peace and democracy in the world. May you, your family, and the people of Bangladesh enjoy happiness at this holy time."

Biswas, Khaleda, Hasina greet Muslims

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed their sincere greetings to the Muslims on the occasion of the holy Shab-e-Qadr, reports BSS.

They hoped that this night would inspire us all to dedicate ourselves to the service of the orphans, distressed and helpless people.

In a message on the occasion President Biswas said the holy night of Shab-e-Qadr teaches us to follow the path of equity, fraternity and justice.

The exercise of self-purification, dedication and self-restraint of the Muslims has started through the holy month of Ramadan, the President said and added: This night would inspire us more to follow the ideals of Islam.

Khaleda Zia

In another message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia underlined the need for working unitedly to build a happy and prosperous society imbuing with the ideals and values of Islam.

Begum Zia said the religious importance and significance of this night is boundless.

The Prime Minister expressed her sincere greetings to the Muslims of Bangladesh and the world on the eve of this holy night.

Sheikh Hasina

UNB adds, Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina also greeted the Muslims of the country and the world on the eve of the holiest night, Lailatul Qadr.

In a message, she said the holy Quran containing the messages of overall welfare and emancipation of humanity started revealing at this night. The great holy Quran is the guide for mankind in this world and the world hereafter.

Water plant

From Page 1 Col 8 and ecological balance in and around the capital.

By lifting ground water, the WASA is now able to meet only 40 per cent demand of the city dwellers. Experts have suggested that dependence on ground water be reduced by installing a water treatment plant.

The French government has pledged to give 150 million francs, equivalent to Taka 106 crore, as a tied grant for the machinery of the project while the World Bank is expected to provide a loan of Taka 300 crore.

According to sources, vested quarters are insisting that the construction company should have the experience of setting up the water treatment plant of 50 IMGD (Imperial Million Gallons per Day) scale limit. Only one French company, Degre Monte, fulfils this requirement.

Experts at the WASA say, the lowering of the scale to 25 IMGD will enable more world renowned French companies, with experiences of setting up such water treatment plants, to compete which will help reduce the cost of the project.

The WASA engineers accused the high officials of paying no heed to their suggestions regarding specifications of the project and obstructing early implementation of the much-needed water treatment plant for the city.

They also warned that further delay in taking a decision may force the French government to back out of their pledge to supply the project machinery free of cost.

The sources said, the World Bank's conditions for financing the project have almost been met. An appraisal mission of the Bank is expected here next month to finalise its loan.



Indian paramilitary troops are positioned before the 18th century French-built Immaculate Conception Cathedral Tuesday in the former French colony of Pondicherry. The extra security follows the claim by a Hindu fundamentalist organisation that the Christian place of worship, built by the French in 1748, shares the site of an ancient temple to Lord Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction. — AFP photo

5 killed, 25 hurt in road accidents

From Staff Correspondent

At least five people were killed and 25 others injured in road mishaps in Dhaka, Sylhet and Khulna on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Two others were also stabbed in the city yesterday.

Two persons were killed and four others injured at Dholai par in Demra when an auto tempo collided with a speeding truck yesterday.

The victims — Mohammed Rakib Uddin and Shafikul Alam, both in their forties, — were admitted to the DMCH with serious stab injuries.

The victims alleged that the bullies were stealing some parts. When the guards resisted the miscreants they were stabbed by the bullies.

In another incident, a police constable received bomb injuries near the Railway Hospital at about 6:30 pm yesterday.

The victim — Mohammed Harun-ur-Rashid, 35 — was admitted to the DMCH with shrapnel wounds in his left shoulder.

Police seized the truck but its driver escaped.

In another road mishap, five persons were injured in a road accident on the Sari-Gowainhat road in Sylhet Tuesday.

The injured — Abdul Hossain, 50, Nur Jahan, 30, Shahida Akther, 25, Zulekha, 60 and a auto-rickshaw driver Mohammed Babul, 20, — were admitted to the DMCH.

The injured — Mohammed Zamir Hossain, 18, Abdul Kuddus, 35, Mohammed Monir Hossain, 28 and the driver, Iqbal, 20 — were also admitted to the DMCH.

Police seized the truck but its driver escaped.

In another road mishap, five persons were injured in a road accident on the Sari-Gowainhat road in Sylhet Tuesday.

The victim, Madhubala, 28, along with her husband, two children and some other people were on their way to Jaffong of Jaintapur thana Tuesday afternoon, in a pickup van (Sylhet Na-726).

The accident occurred as the vehicle over turned at a place near Rautgram. The victim fell from village Bilaora of Companyganj thana. Police have arrested the driver and seized the truck.

Meanwhile, a young housewife was killed and four others were injured in a road accident on the Sari-Gowainhat road in Sylhet Tuesday.

The victim, Madhubala, 28, along with her husband, two children and some other people were on their way to Jaffong of Jaintapur thana Tuesday afternoon, in a pickup van (Sylhet Na-726).

Of the injured, eight were admitted to the Khulna General Hospital while two others rushed to the Khulna 250-bed Hospital.

Sources said the accident occurred when a truck and the tempo collided head-on at about 12:30 pm.

Police seized the truck, but its driver fled the scene.

The injured were all tempo passengers, including its driver Moksed.

Farhad killing

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indirect knowledge about the incident have been requested to send information and report in writing to the secretary of the enquiry commission — Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dhaka, Mohammad Asrafuddin Moqbul — by March 20 in the interest of proper investigation.

The senders of such information must mention their names and mailing addresses. All concerned will subsequently be notified to appear and testify before the commission after fixing time and place.

The enquiry commission has solicited full cooperation from all concerned for the sake of proper investigation.

Candidates of DCC asked to submit polls expenditures

All contesting candidates of the Dhaka City Corporation elections have been asked to submit report their poll expenditures by March 21. An Election Commission press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The report will have to be submitted to the returning officer, and the directive is applicable to both the winners and the losers. A copy of the report along with a copy of affidavit will have to be sent to the Election Commission by registered mail, the press release said.

Anyone violating the instruction will have to face a minimum of two years of rigorous imprisonment and maximum seven years with fine.

The official results of the Dhaka City Corporation were published on March 7.

Earlier the Election Commission has appointed the Sub-Judge of First Court of Dhaka as the election tribunal. Any election case could be filed with the tribunal upto April 5.

2 Sarbaharamen arrested in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 9: Banarpara thana police arrested two members of the outlawed Sarbaharamen party last night.

The arrested are Mozammel Haq, 28, and Abdul Mannan, 25, of Baishali village under Banarpara thana of the district.

Police also recovered one countrymade pipecum and 4 rounds of rifle bullets from their possession.

35 shacks gutted in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Mar 9: At least thirty five thatched dwelling houses were gutted in a fire which broke out at Pora Colony, Chanmar Road, Lalkhan Bazar under Double Mooring Police Station here, today. Fire Brigade and police said, reports BSS.

The fire reportedly originated from a kitchen of the colony. It engulfed the entire slum. Six fire fighting units brought the fire under control.

More than one hundred people were rendered homeless.

The loss on account of the fire was estimated at about Taka one and a half lakh.

In another fire, which broke out in a bed manufacturing shop in front of the CDA colony at Mehdibagh gutted valuable worth about Taka one and a half lakh.

During the visit, Begum Zia offered fateha at her family graveyard at South Sreepur Majumderbari. She also went to her village home and talked with her relatives.

Earlier on arrival at Feni, the Prime Minister inaugurated the newly-constructed Feni Circuit House. She went round different rooms and corridors of the circuit house. She also planted a sapling there.

Hebron

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Khulna mid-town Rotary Club, life member of the Red Crescent Society, Khulna and the Shishu Foundation, Tayebur Rahman also takes part in social and cultural activities in Khulna. His father late SK Matiul Rahman was a school teacher and Imam of a local mosque. Tayebur Rahman is married to Laila Arjumand Banu and has three daughters and a son. He loves games and sports.

Tayebur Rahman said, the people of Khulna city had voted him to the mayoral office considering his past social welfare activities. Tayebur said he would give priority to the supply of drinking water by establishing a water and sewerage authority in Khulna city. Out of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank financial assistance of 99 crore taka the present government has allocated 10.58 crore taka in the current fiscal year for slum and drainage development in Khulna.

Tayebur said, he would not hesitate to call a conference of all political parties in Khulna to solve the problems of the city. He reiterated that he would not raise holding tax in the next five years and would instead reduce unnecessary expenditure in consultation with the elected commissioners.

But a compromise in the dispute over the PLO's effort to include Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories in the text, which is opposed by Israel and by the United States, looked close. Palestinian sources and western diplomats said.

Another meeting of the Security Council was scheduled for 7:00 PM (0001 gmt Thursday) on Wednesday, said French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee.

The proposed resolution condemns the Hebron massacre and calls for Israel to tighten its control over the settlers and confiscate their weapons.

The sources say, a number of companies had already signed agreements with foreign firms for purchase or lease of aircraft which would be available at short notice.

Mayors