

Strong quake jolts N Japan Hundreds evacuated as landslide hits Kobe

KOBE, Japan, Jan 21: Hundreds of people were evacuated here today as a landslide hit one district and an influenza epidemic spread through the hospitals, five days after a massive earthquake left close to 5,000 dead or missing, reports AFP.

As rescuers continued searching for survivors, a severe rain-storm was expected to bring new chaos to this western port city, where almost 200,000 people have been left homeless by Tuesday's quake.

A spontaneous mercy mission by private citizens was complicating matters, jamming roads already clogged by official relief operations and by residents fleeing to nearby Osaka and other areas spared from quake damage.

Ordin on medical services

From Page 1 Col 7
private medical clinic and hospital with one to 15 beds have to employ three doctors, and those having more bed-capacity would be required to employ doctors proportionately. The minimum salary of doctors working in private clinics may be fixed in three categories — Taka 3000 for doctors having three years' experience or less, Taka 3500 for doctors having more than three but below five years' experience and Taka 4000 for those having over five years' experience, sources concerned said.

The draft ordinance will also suggest proper representations of government and private doctors and clinic owners in the inspection committee of the Health Directorate that supervise the registration of new private clinics and hospitals.

The draft also proposes fixing a minimum standard time for doctors to see a patient. Many doctors now see a host of patients in a very short time.

Last year, the government had constituted a committee headed by Dr A K M Qamruzzaman MP, with representatives from Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners' Association (BPMPA) and Private Clinics Association (PCA), to prepare a draft.

A similar ordinance was initiated back in 1982 for fixing the charges of the private clinics but in the face of resistance from the cartel of clinic owners it was sent to the cold storage just two years later.

Accordingly, a primary draft was prepared on May 8 last year and the committee, in a series of follow up meetings in June, July and August, examined all aspects of the draft.

The other members of that committee are Dr M A Majed, Gazi Abdul Haque and Matin al

road fissures. Experts feared the cracks could grow and engulf nearby houses.

AP adds from Tokyo: A fairly strong earthquake with preliminary magnitude of 6.2 shook much of northern Japan Saturday, the Central Meteorological Agency reported.

Hartal observed in south Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Jan 21: The first day of the 48-hour hartal in the south Surma area of Sylhet town passed off peacefully today.

The two-day strike was called protesting the inclusion of the area within Sylhet pourashava and holding of local elections tomorrow.

All business establishments, educational institutions remained closed while vehicular traffic were off the roads today.

Hili train disaster: 36 injured get Tk 5000 each

Bangladesh Railway, West Zone, has paid financial assistance of Tk 5,000 each to the 36 passengers who were seriously injured in the train accident on January 13 at the Hili Railway Station, reports BSS.

A press release of the Railway (West Zone) received in Dhaka yesterday said the passengers who got financial assistance are now under treatment in the following hospitals.

Md Fazlur Rahman, 21, and Md Lutfar, 40 in Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, Nurul Islam, 30, Md Shahidul Islam, 28, and Md Shahadat Ali, 23, in CMH, Bogra, Md Abul Khair, 36, in Hakimpur Health Complex, Dinajpur, Md Azizur Rahman, 40, in Parbatipur Railway Hospital, Moniruzzaman, 11, Mozahar Ali, 50, Shahanara Begum, 38, Moshir Rahman, 30, Meseruddin, 21, and Hezab Ali, 35, in Rangpur Medical College Hospital, Tultul, 30, Sirajul Islam, 32, Shahabuddin, 58, Nasir, 45, and Sharmin, 20, in Jyapurhat Sadar Hospital, Tariqul Islam, 18, Shamsul Haq, 30, Asabuddin, 35, Aleya, 30, Alauddin, 19, Hamidul, 17, Mottaleb, 30, Noor Mohammad, 45, Aminul Islam, 17, Chhatmat, 32, Noor Islam, 35, Md Jalil, 32, and Khademul Haq, 25, in Birampur Thana Health Complex, Mehedul Islam, 30, Fatz, 30, Mannaf, 18, Nazrul Islam, 26, and Shahid Zaman, 25, in Dinajpur government Hospital.

Contempt of court

From Page 1 Col 3
On January 18, the High Court bench comprising Justice Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Hamidul Haq issued the rule and the order following a writ filed by advocate Toufik Hossain.

Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed, Bar at Law, told UNB last night that despite the order and the fact that 147 MPs had submitted their resignation to the Speaker on December 28, all these Opposition MPs have received notices to attend the session of Parliament tomorrow.

In other words, Moudud said the Speaker has already given his opinion with regard to the resignation letters despite the court order and in effect rejected the resignation letters of the Opposition MPs.

The JP leader said he would bring it to the notice of the same High Court bench for 'drawing up proceeding of contempt of court against the Speaker and the Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat.'

In the same application, a direction will be sought to call upon the Speaker to withdraw, cancel or rescind the notices which have been served upon the Opposition MPs who had resigned on December 28, he added.

Moudud said there is no scope to retract the resignation letters. As long as resignation is genuine and voluntary, the seat becomes vacant as soon as resignation letter is submitted to the Speaker.

Despite all the confusion created by the government, not a single MP is yet to say that he has not resigned. This only speaks of unity and solidarity of the Opposition MPs.

Parliament should be dissolved immediately and elections held under a neutral caretaker government to overcome the deepening crisis, the JP leader said.



A Chechen woman is comforted by her husband after their home was destroyed by Russian shells in Grozny on Friday. — AFP photo

Kamalapur station incident: Rly to review situation

By Staff Correspondent
Dhaka Divisional Manager of Bangladesh Railway S K Habibullah visited the Kamalapur rail station yesterday and had talks with the railwaymen on the clash that occurred there the previous day.

At least 10 persons were injured in the clash between some passengers and railway staff at the Kamalapur rail station Friday morning.

According to sources, the railway administration will review the situation arising out of the incident and take steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

Meanwhile, Station Manager Mahbubur Rahman lodged a case with the railway police against some unidentified passengers complaining that they had ransacked his office room.

CPB office

From Page 1 Col 8
tacked the auditorium. Later the muskulls organised themselves and set fire to the CPB office, damaging property worth Tk 50,000, the party sources said.

A CPB activist Gautam Brahma was arrested.

72-hr strike

From Page 1 Col 8
The Patkal Sramik-Karmachari Sangram Parishad, Private Jute Mills CBA Coordination Committee, Bangladesh Suta-Bastrakal Sramik-Karmachari Federation, Bastra Shilpa Sramik League and Private Cotton-Textile Mills CBA Coordination Council have jointly called for the blockade and industrial strike in support of 8-point and 7-point demands of the jute and textile workers respectively.

They demanded that the Wage Commission award be implemented from July 1, 1991 for private jute, cotton and textile mills workers, move for privatising jute and textile mills be stopped and working capital be provided for state-owned textile mills.

Rly asked to improve service

The Communications Minister Oli Ahmad yesterday directed the Bangladesh Railway to take measures to improve its service to passengers and other customers, reports BSS.

The minister asked the departmental heads and officers concerned to improve the state of customer service and strictly maintain the cleanliness of the carriages.

The minister gave the directives at a special development and operational review meeting of the Bangladesh Railway he chaired.

The minister also gave directives to re-adjust the train-fair.

Akhtaruzzaman planned Zahir's murder: PW tells court

A prosecution witness said in a court in Dhaka yesterday that Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu MP was the planner of the murder of industrialist Humayun Zahir, court sources said, reports UNB.

They said he 'also gave the details of how, when and in what manner the plan of murder was executed for a sizeable amount of money. Zahir, 45, was shot dead at his Dhanmondi residence on April 8, 1993.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge Second Court recorded the deposition of Alam in the Advocate Humayun Zahir murder case.

Two killed

From Page 1 Col 6
Dal, Zamaluddin, 35, Jalil, 35, Ah Akbar, 26, Dulal Mia, 26 — all workers of the mill — were admitted to the Gazipur sadar hospital.

Our Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) correspondent says, Amanullah died on the spot while Noor Md Kazi at the Chest Diseases Hospital yesterday noon. Both of them sustained stab injuries during the clash between the Sramik Dal and the Sramik League at the Quashem Cotton Mills.

The rival groups used hockey sticks, and sharp weapons and blasted bombs during the clashes.

'Opposition calls hartals to damage economy'

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday criticised the Opposition for calling hartals on different important occasions causing damage to national economy, reports UNB.

Addressing a gathering of more than 300 eminent people including retired civil servant Shah M Abul Hossain from Mehdiganj of Barisal district, who joined BNP in the city last night, the Prime Minister said such programmes would lead to destruction of the country.

The opposition-sponsored hartal on January 24 and 25 coincides with the Euromoney International Investment Conference in Dhaka, a meeting of more than 200 foreign investors. About 500 local entrepreneurs will also be participating in the meet to seek joint venture opportunities.

The Prime Minister said BNP has reached the fruits of production-oriented politics to the common people because it believes in people's welfare.

The local leaders of the JP alleged that a section of the BNP workers, who were passing by the area after attending a BNP rally nearby, made the attack.

The JP workers later brought out a procession.

Student shot dead

From Page 1 Col 7
January 29 in protest against the killing of Joydip Dutta Choudhury Bappi.

The teachers' representatives of the DU Syndicate took the decision at a meeting yesterday evening with Vice Chancellor Professor Emajuddin Ahmed in the chair.

The meeting alleged that all these killings were pre-planned.

The teachers strongly condemned yesterday's killing and hoped the authorities would take steps in arresting the killers of Bappi and arraign a proper trial.

It will be very difficult to run the university in such a situation if the killers are not arrested and put on trial immediately, the teachers said.

In a statement, the Chairman of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dr A A M S Arefin Siddique also condoled the killing.

The leaders of the Jagannath Hall Students Union and hall residents held a rally in front of the official residence of the Vice Chancellor last night.

The students urged the VC to take effective measures for a terrorism-free campus.

The VC assured the students of stern action against the terrorists.

The VC will meet the Hall Provost, House Tutors and hall students union leaders this afternoon (Sunday) to discuss the situation.

How the BNP government will provide Dal-Bhat for all with rice and lentil selling at Tk 20 and Tk 38 per kg respectively just before the holy month of Ramadan, the Awami League chief wondered.

Hasina questioned the wisdom of the Prime Minister's remarks that the country would export rice after meeting the local demand. 'But reality is that high prices of rice and other essentials have left millions of people hungry,' she said.

The AL President said the BNP government had raised prices of fertiliser four times in last four years. This government has proved inefficient to run the country and surpassed all records of corruption and politicisation, she alleged.

The Midnight File

Tunis meet on combating fundamentalist violence

TUNIS, Jan 21: Interior Ministers from six countries bordering the Mediterranean met here today to discuss joint efforts to combat Islamic fundamentalist violence and organised crime. The informal talks are the first of their kind to be held by Algeria, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia, reports AFP.

JP rally at Natore foiled

From Our Correspondent
NATORE, Jan 21: A group of militant youths foiled a public rally of the Jatiya Party at Govindapur here this afternoon by exploding fire-crackers at the venue.

The attack came soon after the JP's acting chief Mizanur Rahman Choudhury started addressing the rally. However, nobody was hurt in the explosion.

The local leaders of the JP alleged that a section of the BNP workers, who were passing by the area after attending a BNP rally nearby, made the attack.

The JP workers later brought out a procession.

3 killed in Ctg road mishap

CHITTAGONG, Jan 21: Three people were killed and 20 others injured in an accident at Madanhat in Shitakunda thana, 20 kilometres from the port city, on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the accident occurred at about 8 pm when a speeding truck rammied into groups of workers who were returning home from a rally in support of tomorrow's countrywide rail-road blockade programme called by jute and cotton mills workers.

They said three workers of the Saleh Carpet Mills died on the spot. The dead were identified as Abdul Latif, 18, son of Azibor Mojah of Magura, Mokin, 23, son of Mijai Siddik of Bhola and Saiful, 19 of Patiya in Chittagong.

Police confirmed two deaths and said three others were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with serious injuries.

Angry workers put barricade on the highway disrupting the communication.

Dilip, Saira

From Page 1 Col 8
receive them. Dilip Kumar, now in his seventies, will also be accorded a reception by the Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (FDC).

The Dilip Kumar Reception Committee will also hold a show for the welfare fund of radio, TV and cinema artists at a local hotel on January 24, where the actor will recollect memorable moments of his life.

Data error

From Page 1 Col 5
for primary commodities increased by 16.46 per cent while the export volume was up by 5.28 per cent. For the industrial commodities, the price index rose by 2.28 per cent while the export volume increased by 32.33 per cent.

Earnings from the garment sector, accounting for 52.92 per cent of the total, surpassed the target for the first quarter by 16.80 per cent and stood at 481.81 million dollars compared to the error-prone earlier figure of 268 million dollars and last year's earning of 384.65 million dollars over the same period.

The frozen food sector fetched 106.52 million dollars, exceeding the target by 77.53 per cent, as against an earning of 72.36 million dollars during the same period of last year. The leather sector also did well posting an earning of 55.59 million dollars compared to last year's 38.44 million and projected target of 50 million dollars.

Jute goods exports earned 86.99 million dollars as against a target of 78.75 million and last year's earning of 73.44 million dollars during the same period.

Earnings from knitwear exceeded the target for the period by 12.29 per cent and stood at 84.22 million dollars as against 47.20 million during the first quarter of 1993-94.

A look into Railway

From Page 1 Col 7
stalled by a Norwegian farm, the system replaced a primitive and unreliable telephone network of the BR.

BR's deteriorating financial situation is attributed to factors not beyond comprehension. The deficit grew from 7.1 million US dollars in 1981 to 27.5 million dollars in 1992. The working expenses rose on an average by nearly 44 per cent per annum over the last two decades. Passenger traffic decreased from 106 million to about 40 million. And freight traffic from 3.2 million tons to 2.5 million tons.

BR's titchish life-vessel, the freight wagons, came down to 17,777 in 1993 from 19,616 in 1970. The last decade saw the inclusion of only 16 freight wagons to its declining stock. The existing wagon stock figure may vary enormously as lots of wagons are taken off the track everyday for repairs.

The tracks, consisting of 2706.1 route kilometers of the railway's Eastern and Western zones, are in similar shambling state. Although the Railway Information Book shows a good record of the tracks — in 1992-1993 only 21 minor accidents occurred due to faulty tracks. The total number of train accidents in the country was 219 during the period, sources concerned said. The original wooden sleepers have never been replaced. Last time the tracks were boulder-fed (stones between the lines) dates back to the fifties. Boulders are virtually non-existent on most of the lines causing damage to the lines. Moreover, track maintenance

is so poor that on most of the lines the maximum speed is restricted to 30-40 kilometers per hour.

'Everything to maintain tracks is done manually in our country,' said an executive engineer of BR's Track Maintenance Department at his Dhaka office, 'and this is an extremely hard physical job.' he added. 'Our labourers are too old to do it properly.'

The silver lining of BR's cloudy existence shows in the freight services; particularly in the container traffic from Chittagong port to Dhaka while other freight traffic, food-grains, fertilizers, jute etc. has declined drastically.

BR's relatively cheaper rates and special facilities have attracted a wide range of customers to utilise the container services. It has registered an increase from 55,392 TEUs (Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units) in 1988 to 188,024 TEUs in 1992.

Otherwise, like the rest of the BR services the freight traffic possesses a dysfunctional organisational and operational systems that encouraged delay and low quality of service in the recent past. It took on an average 13 to 18 days to complete a wagon journey of about 260 kilometers. Dismayed at the services, BR's traditional freight customers resorted to other methods. Instead of transporting their foodgrains, fertilizers and other items up to Dhaka, they are now selling their imports to dealers in Chittagong who then find the door to door road network to distribute those all over the country.

AN EXCLUSIVE EVENING WITH **DILIP KUMAR**

Please

- Come and Enjoy Listening to the Great Actor and Humanist reflecting on his own Life and Philosophy
- Ask your favourite question to the Living Legend
- Win a Chance to have yourself photographed with Dilip Kumar
- And if Lady Luck Smiles on You... You may be the Lucky Winner of a complimentary Ticket for a Couple to visit Bombay and enjoy an Exclusive Evening with him.

TICKET VALUE TK. 3000 (Per Person) TK.2000 (Per Person) TK.1500 (Per Person)

24 January '95, 6.15 P.M.
Winter Garden Hotel Sheraton Dhaka.

Tickets Available at : ■ Sheraton Hotel-863391
■ Film Fare-Sobhanbag-316201 ■ Dolce-Vita-Kamal Ataturk Avenue ■ Swiss Plus-Baily Road-834121
■ Ananda Confectionary-Abul Hasnat Road-251549
■ Video Connection-Gulshan-602525

Dilip Kumar Reception Committee
Phone : 867007, 868839

Its a Charity Show For The Welfare Fund of Radio, TV & Cinema Artists'

RTV will record this Programme and Few Prominent Artists of TV and Film will Participate with Dilip Kumar

Editor : Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmendi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

DHAKA ZOO

NOW IN DHANMONDI

ADCOMM'S NEW HOME

719 Satmasjid Rd Dhanmondi R/A Dhaka 1209

ADCOMM LTD