

Govt urged to suspend FAP activities

By Staff Correspondent

The Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) and Coalition of Environmental NGOs (CEN) yesterday demanded immediate suspension of all activities of the Flood Action Plan (FAP) in the country as it was against the interest of the people.

"We have been campaigning for last four years against the FAP which does not help the people, rather it affects the crops and arable land in the project areas creating draught and water logging," said Khushi Kabir, Chairperson of the CEN while briefing journalists on the "mass conference" on FAP held on Monday at the BMDC auditorium.

Demanding ecologically balanced water management in the region she said river routes should not be disturbed using technology in the name of flood protection.

"Water is not our enemy but it is our resource which was not considered in the FAP," she said at the press conference at the Jatiya Press Club. Rasheda K Chowdhury, director of ADAB, Atique Rahman and Hamidul Haq both members of the ADAB and some affected people from FAP project areas were also present at the press conference.

Khushi Kabir said "it is totally impossible for Bangladesh to solve its water and flood problems alone, because the sources of most of the rivers flowing over the country are outside its territory."

In this regard, she informed the press that the NGOs, working in this region were trying to create a pressure group advocating a broader water management policy covering all areas of the South Asian region.

Shantibahini buying time

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under our grip, it would be hard to control SB (Shantibahini) activities.

Meanwhile, in related developments, the Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP), Pahari Gano Parishad (PGP) and Hill Women's Federation (HWF) have geared up their motivational and mobilising activities.

The three organisations are out to take the issue to a political level, both nationally and internationally. They are also spreading panic among the tribals to make them antagonistic to army and plain leaders.

Army officials specifically named some NGOs and western countries that are supporting the activities of these organisations.

"These organisations want to disturb the present calm in the hills," said Gen Rahman. "They are regularly holding motivational classes in the schools to antagonise the tribals against the Bengalis."

"These organisations have been able to muster more support from the tribals than the SB could ever do," said a high official of Counter Insurgency unit. "They are building

US urges Govt, Opposition

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Monday last and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina last Thursday, a day before Parliament was dissolved.

Informed sources said that the US ambassador and envoys of western donor countries were impressing upon both the leaders to come to an amicable understanding so that the democratic process was sustained through elections participated by all parties.

PM's reply soon

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with her senior party colleagues to discuss her fourth letter to the AL chief and other issues relating to the political crisis and the next general elections.

Meanwhile, Salam Talukdar is hopeful of a negotiated settlement of the current political impasse if the agitating Opposition sits for a discussion.

Asked if any consensus between the government and the Opposition was possible before the coming general elections, Talukdar told The Daily Star yesterday, "They should first come to the negotiating table to talk with an open mind. Following the dissolution of Parliament, there should be a discussion (between the two sides) in the interest of democracy."

Mentioning the Opposition's pre-condition for the proposed dialogue — to accept in principle the idea of a neutral caretaker government — he said there would be no need for talks if they accepted the pre-condition.

Six killed in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

At least five people were killed and a housewife reportedly committed suicide in separate incidents yesterday in and around the city.

One Yunus, 40, was killed when a truck ran over him at Shanapara under Demra thana yesterday. In another road accident, an unidentified man aged about 35 was killed near Sonargaon Hotel in the afternoon. Meanwhile, one Nazrul, 12, who received grievous injuries when a speeding bus ran over him in Narayanganj late Monday, succumbed at the DMCH early yesterday.

Abu Baker, 30, an electrician, who received fatal injuries from electric shock in Mohammadpur on Monday night, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) early yesterday.

In another incident, Nurul Huda, 24, was choked to death when the scarf around his neck got stuck with the lathe machine at an engineering workshop at Adamjee yesterday.

Meanwhile, Rashida, 30, wife of one Kalim Matbar, reportedly committed suicide by hanging herself at a slum near Mohammadpur flood protection embankment in the afternoon.

EU to provide Tk 3.71 cr more for flood victims

RANGPUR, Nov 28: The European Union (EU) will provide an additional Tk 3.71 crore for the post-flood rehabilitation in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram districts, reports UNB.

The special EU humanitarian assistance was announced here today by Ambassador Michael Drury, Head of the European Commission delegation in Dhaka, after his extensive three-day tour of the flood affected northern districts.

The announcement came during a meeting between the ambassador and the deputy commissioner of Rangpur.

The money will be channelled through three European NGOs — Oxfam, Concern and Terres Des Homes (TDH-Switzerland) — and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Society.

Six rooms of DU hall sealed off

By DU Correspondent

The authorities of the Kabi Jastimuddin Hall of the Dhaka University yesterday sealed off six rooms of the dormitory in a bid to free the hall from illegal occupants.

The hall sources said some outsiders were staying in the rooms.

Angered by the action, some resident students reportedly belonging to the JCD, barred the hall provost Dr Md Shahidullah from entering till 9:30 pm. However, the provost could finally enter the hall with the help of proctor Prof Nazrul Islam, sources said.

Earlier, the authorities issued a notice regarding the eviction after a television set worth Tk 35,000 was stolen from the recreation room of the hall on November 20.

Bangabazar: No report of death

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cash boxes, scissors and other accessories. Some took initiative to set up boundaries of the markets with ropes while some connected electricity line on bamboo poles.

The fire department set up a six-member enquiry committee to probe into the fire and refused to provide estimates of the total amount of damages until the committee's enquiry was over.

Although there was no official version on the total amount of damages caused by the fire different associations came up with various claims. The officials of the Shop-owners Association claimed that the loss would be about Tk 400 crore while another leader put it at 700 crore.

The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained but some people at the site cast doubt over the initial suspicion of the fire originating from an electric short-circuit while others discarded the allegations of arson.

"This is the third fire in Bangabazar this month, in the previous incidents the fire-fighters tackled the fire but this time they just did not act at all, they could not even save a single shop," alleged a leader of the Association, preferring anonymity.

"Bangabazar became so popular within so little a time



Artists at a Lalon Geeti festival that began at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Ashuganj-Bhairab bridge British ODA will provide soft loan

A meeting between the government of Bangladesh and British Overseas Development Administration (ODA) on the implementation of the proposed Ashuganj-Bhairab bridge project over the river Meghna on the Dhaka-Sylhet road was held in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The finance minister said World Bank Vice President Joseph Wood, who recently visited the Ashuganj-Tamabil road, was highly impressed and convinced about the economic importance of the road.

As a result, the World Bank is financing the construction project of the Ashuganj-Sylhet road. He said, Kuwait Fund for Development has also agreed to finance Sylhet-Tamabil road project.

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Schoolboy stabbed by classmates

By Staff Correspondent

A schoolboy was stabbed reportedly by his classmates at the T&T High School in Fakirerpool area in the city yesterday.

Raju, a student of class eight, was stabbed following a quarrel over the missing of a book, according to sources. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Motijheel police said that a case has been filed in this connection.

Amal Sen hospitalised

Workers Party president Amal Sen, 82, was admitted to Dhaka Community Hospital in a critical condition on Monday, said a party source yesterday, reports UNB.

He became seriously ill two days ago. However, he was taking bed rest as he had been suffering from old-age ailment for the last one month.

Hasina

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sent political crisis. Another report adds: The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) yesterday hailed Sheikh Hasina for taking initiative to end the political crisis by talking to the Prime Minister over telephone.

Meanwhile, city unit of the Awami League will hold a rally and stage a demonstration at Bangabandhu Avenue today to press its demand for holding elections under a caretaker government and ouster of the present government.

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Saidee's meet in Kishoreganj foiled

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 28: A student-people onslaught on the stage set at Husseinpur today by Jamaat activists for Moulana Delwar Hossain Saidee to deliver religious discourse foiled the meeting and left at least 40 injured on both sides, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the venue for gathering about 20,000 people at Husseinpur thana playground came under the wrath of several hundred students and people of different organisations when devotees and Jamaat workers were readying the rostrum.

The angry people also set fire to two motorbikes owned by the Jamaat activists.

The injured people were released after giving first aid. Saidee went back to Dhaka from the district Sadar hearing about the dismantling of the stage.

Dacoity in Shurma Express, 3 stabbed

By DMCH Correspondent

A gang of about ten dacoits stabbed three persons aboard the Sylhet-bound Shurma Express and robbed cash and valuable from passengers of a compartment near Tongi Monday night.

The gang armed with machettes, rods and sticks attacked the passenger of the compartment close to the engine at about 10pm, according to the injured persons admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The injured persons admitted to the DMCH are Badsha Miah, 25, Kaiser Rashid, 35, and Selimuddin, 30.

Railway police, however, said that only two dacoits had jumped into the running train and snatched only two bags from a passengers compartment and left within a short time.

FF's rally in city today

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will address as chief guest a grand rally of the freedom fighters in the city this afternoon.

The rally, organised by the Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, will be held at 2 pm at Shapla Square.

AL leader Abdur Razzak, Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif, Left Democratic Front (LDF) leader Kazi Aref Ahmed, Ganotantri Party leader Mohammad Aizal and Col (ret'd) Abu Osman Chowdhury, a sector commander of the War of Liberation, will also speak.

Chairman of the central command council of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Principal Abdul Akbar Chowdhury will preside, says a press release.

Master plan

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Three components of the CMMF include planning, transportation and drainage and flood control. It aims at involving the private sector for the first time, besides the public sector efforts.

The master plan outlines a government investment of Tk 1,000 crore for drainage and flood control and another Tk 400 crore for transportation. It envisages other investments by the private sector.

The plan covers the aspects of population of the port city, distribution of the population, economy, housing, environment, urban land development, rural land development and the city's prestige projects.

In order to ensure private investment in the urban planning, a CDA Ordinance Amendment Bill was drafted and placed before the TMC.

To stop malpractice by government employees in the process approval for building plans and land use, some amendments to the East Bengal Building Construction (EBBC) Act, 1952, were also drafted and placed before the TMC in February.

TMC members said that the amendments had to be studied before their approval and had set up a sub-committee for the job.

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The Midnight File

NATO okays plans to send 60000 troops to Bosnia

BRUSSELS, Nov 28: NATO military planners have approved plans to send 60,000 troops to Bosnia to implement a peace deal, the chairman of NATO's military committee Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent said today reports AFP.

Hearing of JP Office Case on Jan 10

The Special Judge's Court yesterday adjourned the hearing of the Jatiya Party office case for six weeks as deposed president H M Ershad could not be produced in the court because of his indisposition, reports BSS.

Former works minister Mostafa Jamal Haider and former works secretary M A Rouf, co-accused with Ershad in the Special Case No 50 of 1993, were in the dock for a brief period. Both prosecution and defence sought adjournment of the hearing citing different grounds.

Yesterday was earlier fixed for re-examination of three witnesses including one from the prosecution.

Additional Sessions Judge and Special Judge Akhlakur Rahman Chowdhury after hearing both sides fixed January 10, 1996, for the next date of hearing of this case.

Assistant public prosecutor M Masud Ahmed Talukder while seeking adjournment said since Ershad, the principal accused in this case is not present in court, it won't be proper to proceed with the re-examination of the witnesses. The re-examination will start only when he is back to the dock, he added.

British team

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city for making investments. Among others who took part in the discussion were Ali Ahmed, former president of CCCI, Jahangir Chowdhury, Shamsul Kamal, Kamal A Khan, Iqbal Ahmed, Abdur Rauf, Dr Kabir Chowdhury, and Neil Semple. Senior vice president of CCCI Jafrul Islam Chowdhury gave vote of thanks.

The British trade mission later attended a reception accorded by the ANZ Grindlays Bank and visited the industrial fair being held here. The delegation is scheduled to visit the Chittagong export processing zone tomorrow.

Zillur

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ring her (PM) again at this stage as it will be just a futile exercise," the AL general secretary said.

"Anything can happen — anytime," said Zillur when his attention was drawn to the lingering political crisis. But he did not elaborate.

The AL secretary further clarified that the Opposition would not withdraw from the on-going agitation till the 'peoples demand' is met.

He said that AL president did not receive any fresh letter from the Prime Minister till late last night.

Perspective plan

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rather play a 'promotional role' in this regard.

BCI President Subid Ali in his speech said, people must have purchasing power, so that the economy can grow. He said import of footgrains, specially rice, should be stopped by increasing its production in the country.

Tender for 90-day Govt Treasury Bill

Tenders for the 90-day Govt. Treasury Bill will be received on 04-12-95. The intending tenderer should submit their tenders in the prescribed form which can be had from the General Manager, Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel Office, Dhaka.

The completed tender should be placed in a sealed cover superscribed "Tender for 90-day Govt. Treasury Bill" and should be deposited in the box exclusively kept for the purpose in the chamber of General Manager, Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel Office, Dhaka before 12-00 Noon on 04-12-95. The results of the auction would be announced on 5-12-95. Successful bidders would be required to make payment of cost price latest by 12-00 Noon on 06-12-95.

Individuals, business firms, companies & corporate bodies, banks and financial institutions residing/engaged in business in Bangladesh are eligible for participation in the auction.

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