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PHILIPS

Monsoonal rain & flooding Accurate forecast can save life, property

A three-day SAARC seminar on Predictability of Monsoonal Rain and Flooding began in Dhaka yesterday stressing the need for accurate forecast to minimise loss of life and property, reports UNB.

Inaugurating the seminar at a local hotel, Defence Secretary M A Hakim said some SAARC member countries including Bangladesh are vulnerable to potential climate changes due to green house effect and sea level rise.

He said there is a continuous international concern about global warming due to increase in atmospheric level of the green house gases.

Referring to importance of monsoonal rain in the SAARC region, Hakim said agricultural production is largely dependent on monsoonal rain. The south-west monsoon blesses SAARC member countries with life saving rainfall amounting to more than 70 per cent of the annual rain in this region.

"If the rainfall pattern would have been the same every year, it would not have been at all problem for us. But reality is that, there is, at times excess rainfall causing floods, whereas in some years there is rain-deficit causing droughts."

Such fluctuations in rainfall pattern have serious implications to available waters and agricultural production in the SAARC region, he said.

Dwelling on disaster in the SAARC region, the Defence Secretary said tropical cyclones, storm surges, tropical rains, local severe storm, tornadoes, droughts, floods and landslides are so frequent in the SAARC region that these now seem to have become a part of the harsh reality of our existence.

"It is certain that meteorology cannot do anything to prevent natural disasters, but we can reduce loss of life and material damage by using forecast and suitable warnings which enable timely, preventive action to be taken."

Additional Foreign Secretary Ahmed Tariq Karim and Director of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) MF Quayyum also spoke at the inaugural function.

The BMD Director stressed the need for a joint research relevant to weather prediction and better understanding of the variability of southwest monsoon.

He also emphasised greater cooperation and team work to seek means to minimise human sufferings and destructive impact due to cyclones, floods and other natural phenomenon.

Thirty weather scientists and flood experts from India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and host Bangladesh are participating in the seminar.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina with lawyers at the Supreme Court Bar Association hall yesterday. — Star photo

4 hurt as FFs clash in city

By DMCH Correspondent

At least four persons were wounded during a clash between two rival groups at the Muktiyoddha Kendriya Command (MKC) office at Eskaton Road in the city yesterday.

The clash between the Ahad and Aminul groups took place around 5 pm reportedly over support to BNP and Awami League.

The injured — Shukur, 60, Salam, 45, Samad, 60 and Hatem, 55 — were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile, police arrested five persons in this connection, after a case was filed by Sheikh Shamsul Haq, joint secretary-general, MKC.

The arrested are: Golam Mostafa Quayyum, Mokbul, Wahab and Harun.

Dy Director of Food Deptt dismissed

The government has dismissed Deputy Director of Food Department and former Manager of Tejgaon CSD Malik Nasim Ahmed on charge of misappropriation reports UNB.

He was dismissed from his service under the article 4 (3) (D) of the Government Employees (Discipline and Appeal) Rules 1985, said an official announcement last night.

After a departmental case it has been proved that Nasim misappropriated Tk 2.13.532 lakh when he was the Manager of Tejgaon CSD, the announcement said.

110 mw Goalpara power plant out of operation

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, June 19: The 110 megawatt unit of the Goalpara power station is out of operation since Monday midnight due to major mechanical defects, officials said.

According to PDB sources, it will take at least 72 hours to repair the 'kit pump' of the unit which plays a key role in power generation.

Four out of six units of the plant are presently out of order. The remaining two units produce 35 megawatt power only everyday. But Khulna zone needs 300 megawatt everyday, said the PDB source.

Jubo Dal activist found dead

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, June 19: Balagan police recovered the body of a Jubo Dal activist from Kalachara haor yesterday. According to police the victim, Boshir Miah, 25, of Goalabazar was called out of his house by some youngmen Monday night he was found dead in the Kalachara haor next day.

Police sent the body to the Osman Medical College hospital for autopsy. Two persons have been arrested.

CEC visits

From page 1

Bina Juri Nabin High School centre under Chittagong-6.

During the visit, the Chief Election Commissioner found that repolling in all the centres were progressing peacefully, smoothly and in orderly manner.

He talked to the voters, polling agents and officials in every centre and wanted to know about the arrangements of the repolling and whether if they had faced any difficulties and disturbances.

Comparative polls results: '91 & '96

By Staff Correspondent

Following are the division-wise numbers of seats secured by four major parties in the elections in 1991 and 1996.

| Division | Seats | BNP | | AL | | JP | | J | |
|----------|-------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | 96 | 91 | 96 | 91 | 96 | 91 | 96 | 91 |
| Raj | 22 | 7 | 32 | 2 | 18 | 2 | 18 | 1 | 7 |
| Mt | 60 | 17 | 20 | 33 | 28 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Dha | 30 | 5 | 30 | 5 | 29 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Ctg | 78 | 7 | 36 | 37 | 36 | 23 | 3 | 13 | 2 |

1 I/OJ candidate from Khl
1 Ind candidate from Khl
* Result of one constituency in Chittagong division pending

Rao threatens to withdraw support to UF govt

NEW DELHI, June 19: Former Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao today said his Congress (I) Party would withdraw its crucial support to the 19-day United Front coalition government if it committed "grave errors," reports AFP.

"It is not a blind support," Rao, president of the 111-year-old Congress Party, told supporters in the coastal state of Orissa, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

"We will be forced reconsider or support if the new government commits grave errors detrimental to the interests of the country," he said, adding that his party would "point out slips and rectify them through discussions."

The 13-party alliance, headed by Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda could collapse without the backing of 140 Congress MPs in the badly fractured 545-seat lower house of parliament.

The 74-year-old Rao warned that if the new government committed serious mistakes which went against the principles of the Congress.

4 miscreants held in Daykandi; Arms recovered

COMILLA, June 19: Four armed miscreants were injured in an exchange of fire with members of the armed forces near a polling centre in Daykandi thana this morning, reports UNB.

Police said they arrested the injured terrorists — Alam, Alauddin, Rokan and Masum — from the spot. They also seized two country-made guns from their possession.

Masum, Rokan and Alauddin were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital while Alam was rushed to Dhaka in critical condition under police custody.

Solarz's remarks

From page 1

tional process. The June 12 poll was the outcome of that process, he added.

He said the BNP had invited foreign observers with the hope that their observation would help strengthen the democratic process in the country and the leaders of different observer groups, including the leader of NDI, had also said that they had come to observe the 'polls and not to supervise.' But the post-poll remarks of the NDI leader were not consistent with his pre-poll comments, Zahid said.

The BNP leader said all the major political parties had complained of massive election disturbances all over the country while NDI found the problems in only 123 centres and termed them as "localised."

Anwar Zahid said the observation of NDI that the minorities in Chittagong 6 and 7 constituencies were harassed and intimidated and that it was a national trend was not true. He said the comments of NDI on the minorities in Chittagong and other areas of the country were detrimental to "national integrity, communal harmony and social peace."

He said the foreign observers could visit only some hundred polling centres out of 25,000 centres all over the country besides, they visited only those centres where there were no disturbances, Zahid said and added that on the basis of that NDI could not make any general comment on the polling situation in the whole country.

Hasina

From page 1

power and the government should be run on the mandate of the people who are the owners of the Republic.

"Everyone should respect the people's mandate," she asserted.

Hasina said that many foul games had been played with the voting right of the people over the last 20 years. "We shall ensure voting right of the people by holding all future elections under neutral, non-party caretaker governments," she added.

The AL Chief said that they would run the country on the basis of national consensus, not on mere party angle.

"The fundamental decisions will be made taken through national consensus," she declared.

She also expressed her determination to root out terrorism from the society.

Barrister Shaikat Ali Khan, President of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association, stressed the need for protecting democracy and the democratic norms and values.

In his welcome address, Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, general secretary of the association, urged the AL Chief to keep her commitments for separation of the judiciary from the executive, repeal of black laws and establishment of rule of law.

Among those present at the meeting were, Senior Advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, Sirajul Huq, Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, Dr Md Zahir, Barrister Shaifur Rahman, KS Nabi, Senior Advocate Zakir Ahmed were present.

Sheikh Hasina was accompanied by her party colleagues Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Amir Hossain Amu, Saranjit Sen Gupta, Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder and others.

3 foreign envoys meet Hasina

The ambassadors of China, Nepal and Palestine called on Awami League president Sheikh Hasina in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xujiang, Nepalese Ambassador Lok Bahadur Shrestha and Palestinian Ambassador Mohammad Shahta Zarab met Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence and greeted her for her party's victory in the June 12 election.

During the meetings, the foreign diplomats and the Awami League chief discussed international issues and matters of mutual interest of their respective countries, said a party press release.

Awami League president member Abdus Samad Azad, General Secretary Zillur Rahman and Political Adviser of Sheikh Hasina SAMS Kibria were present.

Oath taking

From page 1

Earlier on Tuesday, the Election Commission sent the official list of 273 MPs, notified through an official gazette on June 16, to the Parliament Secretariat to take necessary action in this regard.

Later, senior officials of the Parliament Secretariat also started contacting leaders of different political parties having members elected in the elections to consult them about the possible dates for oath.

The Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat and some other officials yesterday met Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, who emerged as the majority-party leader and the most likely contender for premiership.

Sources at the Election Commission said the gazette notification for the rest 27 MPs would be done as soon as the election process is completed.

The Midnight File

Delhi to extend federal rule in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, June 19: The Indian government today said it would extend direct federal rule in the troubled state of Kashmir by six more months to December 17, officials here said. There is no option but to extend the President's rule in the northern state. Home secretary K Padmanabhaiah said, reports AFP.

ADB loans increase by 185 per cent

MANILA, June 19: The Asian Development Bank said today its loans rose 185 per cent from a year earlier to 1.02 billion US dollars in the three months to March, reports AFP.

A Bank statement said 93 per cent of the loans approved in the first quarter of 1996 were sourced from its interest-bearing ordinary capital resources.

The balance came from its zero interest facility, the Asian Development Fund, which is lent to Asia's poorest countries with only a one-per cent annual service charge and repayment terms of up to 40 years, it said.

Twelve loans were government guaranteed and two were direct loans to the private sector," the Manila-based Bank said.

Technical assistance grants totalled 23.9 million dollars, it said.

Pakistan received the largest single loan amounting to 300 million dollars for a hydro-electric project, but Indonesia had the lion's share with five loans totalling 422 million dollars, the development bank said.

The Bank said that it was exchanging enclaves with Bangladesh: Jyoti urges Delhi

NEW DELHI, Jan 19: West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu has pleaded for immediate exchange of enclaves between India and Bangladesh that span across the north Bengal border, reports BSS.

Basu has conveyed the request to the central United Front government of Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda. Basu's party (CPI-M) is an important constituent of the UF a loose alliance of 14 parties, including communists and socialists.

There are about 130 Indian enclaves within the Bangladesh territory while more than 90 Bangladesh enclaves are in the Indian territory, said a report in the Hindustan Times today.

Basu made the demand winding up a debate on West Bengal governor's speech in the state assembly on Monday night, the report said.

Meanwhile, in a significant development of political polarisation, CPI (M) has called for Congress support to resist the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in West Bengal. CPI (M) leader Anil Biswas stressed the need for thwarting the rise of the BJP describing it as "a threat to the country," the unity call between the rival parties has come as a surprise to the political circles in West Bengal. Earlier, BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee had reportedly addressed a huge rally in Calcutta.

The nation is eagerly waiting to see BNP's role as the largest ever opposition party in the parliament.

BNP emerges

From page 1

elections in 1978 and 1981. BNP had boycotted two consecutive parliamentary elections in 1986 and 1988 and the presidential election in 1986 held under the autocratic regime of now-jailed former President H M Ershad. The party also won the controversial February 15 parliamentary election which was boycotted by the then major opposition parties.

Founded by a military ruler, Ziaur Rahman, the BNP ruled the country for nearly nine years in three terms. The party was in power for two years and nine months under the leadership of Ziaur Rahman, 10 months under Justice Abdus Sattar and for more than five years and one month under Begum Khaleda Zia.

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Exchange enclaves with Bangladesh: Jyoti urges Delhi

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Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board

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It is for information of the valued telephone subscribers of Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet areas that the bills for digital Telephone for the month of May '96 have already been issued on 10-6-96 and bills for analog Telephone of Dhaka and Chittagong regions are being issued and the bills will have to be paid by 25-6-96 and 30-6-96 respectively.

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DFF-13998/1996
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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, Dhanmondi B/A, Dhaka-1206. FAX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3287, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.