

Metropolitan

Article in Pak daily says Build Ganges barrage to resolve Farakka problem

The Nation — a leading English daily of Pakistan has published an article in its weekly magazine under the caption The Farakka Dispute: History and Possible Solution. It depicted the background of the construction of the barrage during Pakistan days, according to a message received in the city, reports BSS.

The article mentioned that the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission was established to develop their common water resources on cooperative basis.

Bangladesh's proposal was that the dry season flow of the Ganges should be augmented by the construction of storage reservoirs on the Ganges Himalayan tributaries with the cooperation of a third country like Nepal.

The article further quoted that the Indian proposal for augmenting the dry season flow of the Ganges consist of a barrage across the river Brahmaputra and a canal to take water from the river through the northern area of Bangladesh to

Farakka. India should be given a fixed period of time, say three months, to conclude a treaty with Bangladesh on a permanent basis. If it fails to do so, the following steps should be taken.

A Ganges barrage should be built near Hardinge Bridge at the off-take of the river Gori. Madhumati. It is estimated that it will irrigate a gross area of 635 million acres. The barrage should also store water for dry season use.

The Ministry of Law of Bangladesh should explore the possibility of appealing to the International Court of Justice or at an international tribunal, as was done by Spain for resolving the Lake Nanous Dispute, which was initially settled by the Lake Nanous Arbitral Tribunal.

The article said that India took full advantage of the situation and won from Bangladesh its acceptance that India has a right to use the Farakka barrage without concluding a permanent treaty to share the Ganges waters with Bangladesh.



Some resident students of city's Eden Women's University College find themselves on the streets after they were forced to vacate their dormitories, following a sudden decision by the authority yesterday to close the college sine die. — Star photo

Stockholm congress concludes today Dhaka calls for poverty alleviation to end sexual exploitation of children

Bangladesh has called for taking concerted steps for the alleviation of poverty at national and global level to end both commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation of child, reports UNB.

The issue of commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation is linked with poverty. State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr. Mozammel Hossain told a conference in Stockholm on Wednesday, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

The World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in the Swedish capital from August 27-31, is being attended by officials from 112 countries, and NGOs and organisational representatives from 130 countries.

Leading a four-member delegation from Bangladesh, the state minister also called for promoting active cooperation between countries on global and regional basis to stop trafficking and sexual exploitation of children.

Commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation of children is a direct violation of the rights of children. Children's rights are human rights. Human rights are children's rights. Dr Hossain said in the congress.

Saying that men, women and children are being deprived of universal human rights, he mentioned that some criminals take advantage of the children's impoverished position for commercial sexual exploitation and sex tourism.

This is a crime not only against the children but against humanity. We must stop it and protect the rights of children at every level, he said.

The state minister informed the congress that a number of laws, including the Women and Children Repression Act 1995, exist in Bangladesh to combat violence and sexual exploitation of children.

The issues of commercial sexual exploitation, sex tourism and child pornography do not prominently exist in the country, he said. Of late, however, children are being trafficked out of the country and are sexually exploited in foreign countries.

He also pointed out that children are abused sexually outside the commercial context, particularly in families and homes, saying that these are also equally serious in most societies and countries.

We would, therefore, urge the participants at this congress to look beyond the commercial dimension of the problem, if the rights of these most deprived children are to be restored, he told the congress.

Principal of the college, Prof. Harun-ar-Rashid presided over the discussion while Prof. MKM Akbar Hossain and college students ASM Ahsan Habib took part in it.

In his free and candid discussion, the BNP leader agreed with Finance Minister SAMS Kibria on the question of reducing loss in the public sector, increasing investment and savings, ensuring discipline in the banking sector and proper utilisation of internal resources.

But he refuted the statement of the incumbent finance minister that nothing had happened to the economy in last 21 years and said that Kibria's remarks seem that "It was a Greek tragedy... a kind of Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained."

Defending his economic programmes and achievements made in last five years, Saifur Rahman said the annual export increased to 3.8 billion dollar

from 1700 million dollar, development budget rose to Tk 10,500 crore from 5,200 crore, education sector got allocation of Tk 3,050 crore while Tk 1,010 crore were spent for development of roads.

He said it is not true that the BNP government had not given any subsidy to the agriculture sector, saying that they had exempted agricultural loans of Tk 3,000 crore.

Responding to the proposed subsidy of Tk 100 crore for agriculture sector, the former finance minister called the proposition "unrealistic" and said it cannot be implemented.

In this context, he quoted some excerpts from the budget speech of former finance minister Tajuddin Ahmed who, he said, had also suggested reduction of subsidy on agri inputs like irrigation and fertilizer considering the economic situation of that time.

Referring to the proposed revenue increase of 11 per cent and 2.5 per cent increase of revenue expenditure in the new budget, Saifur Rahman again called it "very unrealistic".

Revenue expenditure will increase by 12.5 per cent to 15 per cent, he said. "I can challenge, the budget will not be realised as it is presented."

He also disagreed that no new tax has been proposed in the budget and said the tax net will be extended through expansion of VAT, implying new tax on the people.

The former finance minister opposed the withdrawal of "lock-in" provision in the stock market, saying it would be totally unjust as foreign investors would pump out their capital in foreign currency within one year of their investment.

He favoured denationalisation of the public sector claiming that there is no instance in any country of the world where nationalised industries made profit.

Saifur Rahman repeatedly called for consensus on national issues, smooth functioning of democracy and political stability to create a hospitable environment for free economy, foreign investment and development.

"Policy of the government is alright, but we must find out ways to resolve all major problems," he told the House.

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Rivers in Ganges basin continue to rise

The rivers in the Ganges basin continued to rise at upstream points, and flowing above their respective danger levels at three points in the last 24 hours till 9 am yesterday, reports UNB.

The Brahmaputra continued to fall at all points except at Aricha during the period while the rivers in the Meghna and the South Eastern Hill basins recorded rise and fall.

According to Flood Information Centre bulletin, Mahananda at Chapainawabganj and the Ganges at Pankha, Goalundo and Bhagyakul were flowing above their respective danger marks.

It said the Ganges recorded further rise by 10 cm each at Pankha and Rajshahi, 4 cm at Hardinge Bridge, 3 cm at Bhagyakul and slight rise at Goalundo.

The river is flowing 1.52 metre above its danger levels at Pankha, 5 cm at Goalundo and 37 cm at Bhagyakul.

The bulletin said, all the rivers in the Ganges basin were flowing below their danger levels except Mahananda at Chapainawabganj and the Ganges at Pankha, Goalundo and Bhagyakul.

The Surma in the Meghna basin, recorded further rise by 34 cm at Kanaighat, 12 cm at Sylhet, 19 cm at Sunamganj. The Koshiyara remained steady at Amaishid and receded by 3 cm at Sheola.

The Manu recorded further rise by 5 cm at Manu Rly Bridge

but receded by 9 cm at Moulvibazar. Rest of the rivers in the basin also remained steady and had rise and fall at different points.

The Brahmaputra registered further fall by 17 cm at Noonkhawa, 20 cm at Chilmari, 7 cm at Bahadurabad and 12 cm at Serajganj but it recorded slight rise at Aricha.

The Dharla receded slightly at Kurigram while the Teesta recorded rise by 3 cm at Dalia and receded by 4 cm at Kaunia.

Also in the basin, the old Brahmaputra registered further fall by 16 cm each at Jamalpur and Mymensingh.

The Muhuri, in the South Eastern Hill Basin, recorded further rise by 14 cm at Parshuram. The Haida at Narayhat registered rise by 7 cm and by 80 cm at Panchpukuria. Similarly, the Sangu registered fall by 35 cm at Bandarban.

The bulletin, in its forecast for the next 24 hours ending 6pm today said more areas of Godagari, Paba, Bagha, Charchat thana of Rajshahi district and Lalpur thana of Natore district are likely to inundate.

Flood situation of Bholahat, Gomastapur, Shibganj and sadar thana of Chapainawabganj district will aggravate.

On the other hand, the flood situation of Shibabari and Haripur thanas of Manikganj district and Srinagar and Lowahajang thanas of Munshiganj district are likely to remain unchanged.

Obituary

Rausan Mohol Siraji, a noted writer and daughter of poet of Muslim renaissance Ismail Hossain Siraji, died of old age ailments in the city yesterday. She was 72, reports BSS.

Begum Siraji, wife of poet Izabuddin Siraji, was also a renowned social worker. She edited a periodical the Qurbani while two of her publications, 'Adhunik Darzi Buggyan' and 'Sakher Ranna', became popular.

She also wrote several poems and articles in different newspapers and weeklies.

Begum Siraji left behind her four sons, four daughters, grand children and a large number of relatives and admirers.

Her kulkhwani will be held tomorrow at her 27/B B second colony at Major Road, Mirpur.

But Shamsul, instead of going to cinema, brought Sapna and Amin to Jamalpur in an autorickshaw making them senseless with the help of his associates.

As Sapna and Amin regained their sense on Wednesday night, they cried out for help.

On hearing their hue and cry, local people rushed to the autorickshaw and nabbed the culprits. They were handed over to sadar thana police.

President, PM greet Kyrgyz counterparts

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has felicitated Akayev Askar, President of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan on National Day of that country, reports BSS.

The President in a message hoped that the existing bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries would be further consolidated in the years to come.

He expressed his best wishes for personal health, happiness and long life of Askar and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

In a separate message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina felicitated Djumagulov Apas, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan on the National Day of that country.

In a message to the Prime Minister expressed her confidence that the existing bond of friendship and cooperation between the two brotherly countries would be further strengthened in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

By Staff Correspondent

First death anniversary of former press secretary and personal secretary of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Kazi Iqbal Faruk will be observed today.

A milad mahfil will be held today at his 24/1 Lake Circus, Kalabagan residence after Maghrib prayers.

Kazi Iqbal Faruk was former VP of Rajshahi Government College when he was a student and worked as a journalist for long time.

The members of his family have requested his admirers, friends and relatives to attend the milad.

Death anniversary

The 6th death anniversary of Ostad Montaz Ali Khan will be observed in the city today, reports UNB.

On the occasion, Ostad Montaz Ali Khan Sangit Parishad has chalked out programmes including discussion meeting, milad mahfil and destitute feeding, said a press release.

Reopening of Mawla Textile Mills urged

Workers of Mawla Textile Mills at a press conference in Narayanganj Thursday threatened to wage a greater action programme if the mills were not reopened by Monday, reports UNB.

Their programme includes protest rally Sept 2, procession on Sept 4, submission of memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner Sept 7 and fast unto death from Sept 9.

Fatullah unit of Jatiya Samik League announced the programme, at the press conference.

They alleged that the management had shut off the mills six months back without any prior notice and did not pay their back salaries.

Sharbaharaman killed

A Sharbaharaman was killed by his rivals at a village in Kaliganj thana of Jhenidah district on Wednesday night, police said, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Shaahar Rahman (40) of village Gournathpur under Kaliganj thana.

Police said some 15 armed activists of outlawed Purbia Bangla Sarbahara Party called Shaahar Rahman out of his residence at dead of night and shot at him. He died on the spot.

Police recovered the body on Thursday morning and sent it to the morgue for autopsy.

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Saifur calls for consensus to resolve national issues

Former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman Thursday said the national budget for 1996-97 envisaged the guidelines, but lacks scheme for its implementation, reports UNB.

"I don't see much flaws in this budget as it has been prepared in line with BNP's thinking, nor I find any flaw in its structure and documentation... what it lacks is the absence of scheme or programme for its implementation," he said while discussing the new budget of the Awami League government.

Saifur Rahman, however, felt the urgency for consensus among the ruling party and the opposition to resolve all national issues to increase foreign investment, create employment and eradicate poverty.

In his free and candid discussion, the BNP leader agreed with Finance Minister SAMS Kibria on the question of reducing loss in the public sector, increasing investment and savings, ensuring discipline in the banking sector and proper utilisation of internal resources.

But he refuted the statement of the incumbent finance minister that nothing had happened to the economy in last 21 years and said that Kibria's remarks seem that "It was a Greek tragedy... a kind of Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained."

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"Policy of the government is alright, but we must find out ways to resolve all major problems," he told the House.

Shariatpur dist edn trust body formed

A 21-member Shariatpur district education trust committee was formed at a meeting in the city recently, reports BSS.

The aim of the committee is to provide financial assistance to poor and brilliant school and college students of the district.

Prof Dr Hedayatul Islam and Sami Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury were made chairman and secretary general of the committee.

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