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**Brussels contee apprehends  
FAP may have adverse  
effect if implemented**

A three-day conference on flood action programme in Bangladesh held in Brussels, has apprehended unfavourable consequences on food security and environment if the proposed Flood Action Programme (FAP) is implemented, reports UNB.

The conference on 'Food Security and the Flood Action Programme in Bangladesh' concluded on Saturday in the conference room of European Parliament in Brussels.

Different sessions of the conference were presided over by European Parliament Member and its Green Group leader Wilfried Telcaper, its International Affairs Adviser Sabine Maer and general secretary of Bangladesh Gano Sanghati Kendra Johan Van Rixtel.

After elaborate discussion, the conference adopted a seven-point resolution suggesting a complete review of the FAP on the basis of a national debate to elicit public opinion. The demands and aspirations of the poor people must be reflected in the water management programme, one of the resolution said.

The participants agreed that if the FAP projects are implemented in Bangladesh, it would have adverse effect on agro-based economy of the country, its fish-wealth, environment and social structure and the prevailing food insecurity would become more intense.

The Structured Flood Control and Green Revolution Projects of the FAP might deprive the commonmen their right on local wealth like fish and water-bodies, it said.

The Bangladesh Gano Sanghati Kendra, Green Group of European Parliament and IAO Network of Berlin jointly organised the international conference.

Luka Oriani of European Commission, Kits Pitman of the World Bank, Jef Wood and Patricia Almada Villela of UNDP Review Mission, president of Bangladesh Khetmajur Union Bima Biswas, general secretary of Bangladesh Krishak Federation Badrul Alam, Swapon Adnan of Samabesh Institute and Selimul Haq of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies took part in the discussion.

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**Silver Jubilee of Victory Day**



Sequence of a dance programme presented by Benuka Lalitakala artistes at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium yesterday marking the Silver Jubilee of Independence. — Star photo



A Sammilita Sangskritik Jote function at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday on the occasion of Silver Jubilee of Independence. — Star photo

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the BCIC. The discussion was participated by Abdus Samad, Ruhul Amin, Yusuf Hossain, Alauddin Ahmed, Rafiqul Mannan, Mohammad Shahidullah Pathan and Azharul Haq, Mohammad Rezaul Karim presided.

Muktijoddher Chetana Monch organised a remembrance meeting on the 11th day of its fortnight long victory programmes at the Doel Chaitar near Curzon hall. Presided over by Dr Nilima Ibrahim, the meeting was addressed among others by Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Mamunur Rashid and Sayedur Rahman.

Leaders of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) demanded trial of the war criminals at a discussion meeting held at Rayerbazar.

Presided over by BSD leader Rahima Khatun, the meeting was addressed by among others Abdullah Sarkar, Golam Mahmood, Bazur Rashid Firoz, and Ashraf Uddin Khan.

The 'Bijoy Utsab' of Sammito Sanskritik Jote in six stages around the university area and at the Central Shaheed Minar attracted a large number of people yesterday.

At the central Shaheed Minar, a session of group songs was held. In the Munir Chowdhury Monch at the Doel Chaitar, dramas were staged by various groups, films on liberation war were screened from the Zahir Raihan Monch, Baul songs were sung in the Jainul Abedin Monch and poems were recited in the Jahanara Imam Monch.

A book fair which began on December 10 continued yesterday. A cottage industry fair was also held in front of the Bangla Academy.

A session of Nazrul songs organised by Bangla Academy was held in the academy premises.

The Bangladesh Workers Party organised a meeting at Mirpur as part of its week-long victory day programme. Presided over by Kamrul Ahsan, the meeting was addressed by Rashed Khan Menon, Nurul Hasan, Abdul Auwal, Mohammad Nasir and Abul Kalam.

The Nazrul Academy will organise a week-long Loko Utsab from today at the Nazrul Monch in celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Independence.

**1 killed, 5 hurt in  
clash over  
land in Ctg**

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 12: One person was killed and five others were injured in a clash over the possession of land at Saravata village under Rangunia thana this morning.

Police said Md Ali was seriously injured during the clash with his rival groups. Ali was sent to the Chittagong medical college hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Four persons were arrested in connection with the incident.

**SC goes on winter  
vacation Sunday**

By SC Correspondent

Both the divisions of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh goes on winter vacation from December 15.

During the vacation only Justice A M Mahmudur Rahman would sit in a vacation bench for disposal of urgent matters on December 17-19 and 22-24.

The court will reopen on January 2, 1997.

**Mir Shawkat  
sued**

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 12: BNP leader Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shawkat Ali was sued here today for his remarks on the politicians who had crossed to India during the liberation war of 1971, reports UNB.

A local Awami League leader filed the case with a first class magistrate's court, saying Shawkat's statement that 'Politicians went to Calcutta to perform hajj' had hurt the religious sentiment of the Muslim community.

The holy hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam, said Mahabul Haque Mukul in his petition filed with the court of magistrate Mohammad Masum Khan.

He quoted from a Dhaka daily which ran a story on Shawkat's remarks made at a meeting in observance of silver jubilee of independence in Dhaka on Wednesday. The story captioned 'Zia and other sector commanders, not the politicians, led the liberation war.'

**30-yr historic water treaty**

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The signing ceremony.

On Indian side, External Affairs Minister I K Gujral, Water Resources Minister Janeswar Misra and West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu were present.

Both the houses of Indian parliament welcomed the treaty and applauded when the signing was disclosed.

Deve Gowda informed the Lok Sabha while I K Gujral disclosed it before the members of the Lok Sabha.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister of the Indian state of West Bengal Jyoti Basu at the local Banga Bhaban after the treaty was signed.

Talking to The Daily Star at the Vigyan Bhaban, Indian External Affairs Secretary Salman Haider said that a six-member joint committee, three from each country would be formed and if would meet shortly.

Asked if the provision for review would at any time jeopardise the agreed flow of water charted out in the treaty, Salman said that there was no scope to change the minimum stipulated flow incorporated in the treaty.

Responding to another question from this correspondent if the flow of Ganges water could decrease in the coming years due to new barrages in the upper reaches, he replied, 'at this moment there is no new proposal for fresh human encroachment.'

The accord came following nearly five months of intensive negotiations, parleys and consultations that kept political leaders, diplomats, bureaucrats and water experts conferring in New Delhi, Dhaka and Calcutta.

Later in the afternoon, Sheikh Hasina and Deve Gowda addressed a joint press conference at the Vigyan Bhaban and expressed the hope that a new chapter of Indo-Bangla cooperation would now begin.

The leaders also expressed their determination that the acrimony of the past would be overcome and efforts would now be directed towards expanding bilateral ties between the two countries.

The Awami League government headed by Hasina from its first week in office expressed its desire to have a satisfactory water sharing agreement before the onset of the coming dry season beginning on January 1.

The 13-party United Front coalition government of Deve Gowda that came to power eight months ago also responded equally and boldly for settling this issue with its lower riparian neighbour.

The Ganges water sharing treaty which ended a long-standing dispute between Bangladesh and India is seen here by political analysts as the beginning of a new chapter of promoting friendship, goodwill and cooperation between the two neighbours.

The formula for sharing of the Ganges water has been worked out for 10-day periods from January 1 to May 31 after taking into account the average of total flow over a 40-year period from 1949.

The agreement is based on a three-point formula worked out by the two countries under which Bangladesh will either get a minimum 35,000 cusecs of water or 50 per cent of the water if its availability is 70,000 cusecs or less. In the event of flow of Farakka falling below 50,000 cusecs in any ten-day period, the two governments will enter into immediate consultations to make adjustments on an emergency basis in accordance with the principles of equity fair play and no harm to either party.

The treaty envisaged formation of a committee consisting of representatives nominated by the two governments in equal number.

The joint committee will set up suitable teams at Farakka and Hardinge Bridge to observe and record at Farakka the daily flows below Farakka Barrage in the feeder canal and at the navigation lock, as well as at the Hardinge Bridge.

The sharing arrangement under this treaty will be reviewed by the two governments at five years' interval or earlier, as required by either party and needed adjustments, based on principles of equity, fairness, and no harm to either party made thereto, if necessary.

Under the treaty, either party can seek the first review after two years to assess the impact and working of the sharing arrangements.

The historic treaty is done in Bangla, Hindi and English languages and in the event of any conflict between the texts, the English text shall prevail.

Sheikh Hasina, reading out from a prepared text, said, 'This is a moment of high emotion. The signing of the treaty is an event that will change the course of relations in the years to come.'

'It will open a new era of co-operation' between the two countries, she said.

She expressed the hope that the treaty would contribute to the establishment of a lasting peace and prosperity in the South Asian region.

'We should leave behind the chapter of suspicion and mistrust which certain forces nurtured for narrow political gains,' she said.

She appreciated the contribution of the West Bengal Chief Minister to resolving the water sharing problem and thanked the Indian External Affairs Minister for his efforts for furthering the cause of the two countries.

Referring to the Indian premier, Hasina said, 'It is you who have taken the bold decision and showed the vision to tackle the problem.'

BSS adds: Deve Gowda, in his address described the treaty as a 'tribute to the special quality of Indo-Bangladesh relations' and said India was confident that following the solution of the Ganges water sharing problem other bilateral issues that have been under discussions will also be resolved to the mutual satisfaction in the near future.

Hasina said the guarantee clause in the treaty was an acknowledgment of the fundamental right of the lower riparian to a fair share of the waters of an international river.

Replying to a question whether she had any discussion on the Indo-Bangladesh Friendship Treaty with the Indian government the Prime Minister replied in the negative.

She said many points of that Friendship Treaty were covered in the SAARC Charter.

**Hasina's return  
a tight security**

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She waved at the cheering crowd with a smile, that reflected the crowning glory she achieved with the historic accord.

Photo-journalists had the toughest time, running to maintain pace with her advancing motorcade, to record the Premier waving at the crowd.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak were literally lifted off their feet by jubilant young Awami League supporters.

They then walked up to the Airport Road with the crowd.

People from different parts of the city carrying banners welcomed the Premier, chanting slogans.

A huge traffic jam was created on the Airport Road while the crowd gathered.

After the airport ceremonies, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina went to the Bangladesh Museum at Dhanmendi to place wreaths at the mural of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

**Indian parliament**

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Sheikh Hasina and Deve Gowda.

Welcoming the treaty, Congress member Priya Ranjan Das Munshi hoped that it would ensure availability of sufficient water for the Calcutta port and flow of water from upstream.

Forward Bloc member Chitta Basu and Muslim League member G M Banatwala also hailed the treaty.

Prime Minister Deve Gowda said this treaty comes on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh which was a momentous landmark in the history of this continent.

He said this was the first visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India since she assumed office in June last. The visit came as the culmination of a series of exchanges initiated shortly after the new government in Bangladesh took office.

Deve Gowda appreciated the 'very constructive role' played by West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu in bringing about an improved atmosphere which facilitated the signing of the treaty.

Deve Gowda said the signing of the treaty was a fitting tribute to the special quality of relations. He said 'With the removal of what has been a constant irritant in the bilateral ties, we can look forward to an entirely new phase of cooperation.'

He said the Indian government had taken initiatives to promote economic cooperation with Bangladesh, and added that India had proposed to extend commercial credits of rupees 100 crore to enhance trade relations between the two countries.

**BNP: Govt sold out**

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tion was 60:40 and in favour of Bangladesh.'

He said there was a clear guarantee clause for Bangladesh in the 1977 accord, but this time India, not Bangladesh, had been provided with the guarantee clause.

'Although it is a 30-year agreement, it has practically become a two-year accord with the provision of review every two years,' he observed.

Bhuyan also apprehended that Bangladesh might not get much water under the negotiation between the two parties if the flow of water decreased below 50,000 cusec.

He resented that the government did not discuss the Ganges water-sharing issue, an issue of national interest, with the opposition political parties.

**NGO to collect**

From Page 1

ices in the future,' Rashid told this correspondent. With good work, 'eventually our organisation would be able to attract foreign donors to help it,' he hoped.

Meanwhile, networks of door-to-door garbage collection service have grown in different areas of the city at private initiatives, without permission from the authorities. DCC officials said that they would encourage any such move.

But residents of the areas complained that despite their paying conservancy tax to the DCC for cleaning up their areas, they are further paying the private collectors for the job.

'The DCC is liable to legal action for failing to do a job for which it is taking money,' said Mozammel Haq, a resident of Kalabagan area.

Sources concerned said that in 1994-1995, DCC's revenue earned from conservancy tax stood at about Tk 9.63 crore and expenses went up to about Tk 20.57 crore in the sector.

**7 fishermen  
feared drowned**

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 12: Seven fishermen are feared drowned after a fishing trawler sank in the Bay of Bengal yesterday afternoon.

Some fishermen on return to Patharghata today said the trawler sank as a huge crack developed at the bottom of the trawler. There were 9 fishermen on board. Two of them were rescued by another fishing trawler.

**Mongla Port  
workers  
continue strike**

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 12: The port workers now on strike for an indefinite period.

They would announce a greater action programme if their demands were not met soon.

Meanwhile, the situation at the port worsening as the striking workers have started violent demonstrations with support from eighteen other trade unions.

**Col Faruk Rahman's  
detention declared  
illegal**

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday declared the detention of Col (rt'd) Faruk Rahman illegal and without lawful authority.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Mozammel Haque and Justice Md Abdul Matin by their judgement on the writ petition filed by Mahmuda Rahman, mother of Col (rt'd) Faruk, made the rule absolute, as specific cases have already been started against the detenu.

Barrister Qurban Ali moved for Col (rt'd) Faruk Rahman.

**Agreement welcomed**

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In a statement he also congratulated Bangladesh government for taking the initiative for reaching the accord.

The JP leader, however, urged the countries concerned to ensure a permanent water-sharing arrangement involving other member countries of SAARC.

**Jamaat-e-Islami**

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Motiur Rahman Nazami told The Daily Star last night that his party was not in a position to give any instant reaction to the water accord.

'We will study the text of the treaty first and also read the reports in newspapers. Only then, you will get our reaction', he said.

**Workers Party**

Workers Party termed the signing of water treaty a big success of the democratic and non-communal forces both in India and Bangladesh.

The Politbureau of Workers Party, in a statement, said that the then Awami League government had done a 'historic mistake' by agreeing to India's commissioning of the Farakka Barrage on April 18, 1975, without any treaty and with the treaty signed now that 'mistake' is corrected.

The party called for placing the treaty in the Jatiya Sangsad and taking up plans for proper utilisation of water.

**Communist Party**

Welcoming the treaty, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) termed it a right step in right direction.

CPB President Shahidullah Chowdhury and General Secretary Mujibul Islam Selim expressed the hope that

**Highlights**

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both the governments. Following submission of the reports the two governments will meet at appropriate levels to decide upon such further actions as may be needed.

The sharing arrangement under this treaty shall be reviewed by the two governments at five years' interval or earlier, as required by either party.

It would be open to either party to seek the first review after two years to assess the impact and working of the sharing arrangement as contained in this treaty.

**বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন '৯৭**  
**বিজিএমইএ ফোরাম**

পোশাক শিল্প মালিকদের প্রতি আবেদন

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**বিজিএমইএ ফোরাম**

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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