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## Make youths aware of reproductive health: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the government's top priority is to transform the huge population into human resources for attaining economic emancipation of the people, reports UNB.

"We have taken a number of programmes in all development areas during the last one year," she said and called upon all including political parties and professional groups to work for ensuring good health for all.

Addressing a function at Osmani Memorial Hall yesterday on the occasion of the World Population Day, the Prime Minister urged the relevant quarters to make the youths aware of their reproductive health.

She stressed the need for introducing intensive information dispensing campaigns and counselling programmes on reproductive health.

Health and Family Welfare Ministry organised the function. This year's theme of day is: Adolescent Reproductive Health.

Health Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf, State Minister for Health Dr M Amanullah, UNFPA resident representative Alan P Mouchrouf and Health Secretary Mohammad Ali also spoke at the function.

## Alleged child lifter beaten up in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, July 10: A suspected child-lifter was beaten up by a group of youngsters near Mithanala Bazar in Mirersarai thana today, reports UNB.

Police said members of a local club confined Bibhuti Shaha, 27, at their club premise suspecting him as a child-lifter and beat him up severely.

Being informed by the local people, police rushed to the spot and rescued Bibhuti. He was admitted to Mirersarai Thana Health Complex under police custody.

## Missing school student found

A Class Four student of the Dhanmondi Government High School was recovered from a social welfare shelter centre at Mirpur in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Saikat Mahmud Jisan, son of Noor Hossain of 51 Monowar Road in Dhanmondi, had been missing since Monday morning.

## JS session prorogued

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Zillur Rahman said yesterday Awami League's policies as ruling party and peoples' aspirations were reflected in this year's (1997-98) budget. He noted that though the last budget (1996-97) was also passed after AL had come to power, it was a 'continuation' of the previous government's policies.

He congratulated the Opposition lawmakers for participating in budget discussions and proposing many amendments. The finance minister had accepted some of those amendments considering their merits, he added.

Zillur Rahman said the Treasury Bench got 24 hours 49 minutes and the Opposition Bench got 29 hours 55 minutes for discussions on the budget.

He urged all parties having representation in the parliament to work in unison for the people's well-being.

Zillur Rahman, also the Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives, listed a number of areas the present government attached special importance as per its policy decisions. The areas are: projecting true history of Liberation War, upholding the spirit of independence, consensus in running the state affairs forming committees in each ministries to prioritise problems to be addressed fast, strengthening a relationship with neighbours, drawing foreign investment and establishing four-tier local government.

He praised the role played by the Opposition, except occasional walkouts. Staging walkouts without reason and showing impatience can't be supported, he said.

The Deputy Leader of the House congratulated all MPs for endorsing unanimously the resolution condemning Zionist blasphemous acts.

He also praised highly a 'very wonderful speech' by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Earlier, Badruddoza Chowdhury said the Opposition lawmakers participated in the budget discussion and made some suggestions not to demean any one but to help passage of a

good budget. He added that there should not be any misunderstanding over it.

He noted that making laws, passing budget and discussing issues of national interest and international issues of national concern as most important businesses of the parliament. He said more time should be provided for discussion before a piece of legislation is passed by the House. He also proposed introducing a system in future so that lawmakers got more opportunities to raise various issues of national interest.

Terminating walkout a common parliamentary practice, Badruddoza Chowdhury said, the House should take cognizance of every walkout staged by the Opposition. In parliamentary democracy, majority runs a country, but not without the consent of the Opposition.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition said if the Treasury Bench lose patience, a parliamentary democracy cannot function and that's why the government should help the Opposition to play its due role in the House.

Referring to 'unparliamentary words' used by a state minister on the previous day, Chowdhury said, once someone becomes a minister, he no longer belongs to a particular party. Rather he/she becomes a representative of the people. That's why ministers should set examples of restraint, he noted.

He claimed that in the parliament, the Opposition showed higher degree of accountability than the party in power and said the government should be ever-ready to follow the practice of accountability.

Badruddoza Chowdhury proposed giving bonus equivalent to one month's salary to all officers and employees of the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat for their service. Later, on behalf of the Leader of the House, Zillur Rahman also recommended the same.

Both Zillur Rahman and Badruddoza Chowdhury thanked the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, members of the panel of Chairman, Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition, Chief Whips, Whips and MPs for their role in the House.

Maximum temperatures during the heatwave of the past few weeks have reached 40 to 46 degrees Celsius (104 to 115 Fahrenheit).

## Heatwave claims 34 more lives in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, July 10: Thirty-four more people have died in the heatwave gripping Pakistan, raising the total death toll to more than 100, reports and hospital sources said today, reports AFP.

Twenty-five people died Wednesday from heat strokes in the North West Frontier Province, 18 of them in the town of Nowshera, four in the provincial capital, Peshawar, and three in Dera Ismail Khan, local hospital sources said.

Another nine people died in central Punjab province, the Jang daily reported.

Maximum temperatures during the heatwave of the past few weeks have reached 40 to 46 degrees Celsius (104 to 115 Fahrenheit).

## 55 Opposition MPs condemn filing of case against Alamgir Kabir

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 55 Opposition MPs, including the Chief Whip of the Opposition in a joint statement yesterday condemned the filing of a case against BNP lawmaker Alamgir Kabir by the Deputy Commissioner of Naogaon.

They also blamed the government for allegedly provoking the DC to file the case against Kabir and some local businessmen. The DC had filed the case against Kabir after his allegation that the DC had taken bribes and was involved in other corrupt practices.

This case proves the government's patronage of a section of bureaucrats using the administration to exploit the people and encourage corruption," said the Opposition MPs.

Claiming that Alamgir Kabir had always played a very courageous role in the fight against corruption in the administration, they demanded immediate withdrawal of the false case against him.

## Govt filing false cases to destroy BNP: Mannan

BNP leader Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday accused the government of making the life of the people and their elected representatives insecure and resorting to political persecution, reports UNB.

He also alleged that the ruling party was backing terrorism and filing false cases against his party members with an ill motive to destroy BNP.

The BNP secretary general was speaking at a meeting of the party MPs at the office of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Sangsad Bhavan.

"The country is put under a one-party rule. The ruling clique has banished justice, good governance and transparency," he said.

Bhuiyan said even the elected representatives of the people belonging to BNP are facing harassment and their lives are also threatened.

Referring to the parliamentary standing committees, he said the government did not constitute these important committees with a motive to make the parliament inoperative.

Earlier, Mannan Bhuiyan hosted a lunch in honour of the party MPs at the Sangsad cafeteria.

## Anwar Zahid Khaleda's information advisor

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has appointed Anwar Zahid as Chairperson's Information Advisor with immediate effect, said a press release yesterday, reports UNB.

## JS snippets

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session of the Jatiya Sangsad just before its prorogation yesterday.

Many students now living at home and abroad and all of them recognise me as a good teacher," smiling professor of medicine replied to the Chair.

"You're certainly a good teacher but you're very tight in allocating marks," retorted the Speaker.

At this stage of exchange of humorous remarks enjoyed by all members the session was coming to a close. B Chowdhury gave the Speaker "hundred per cent" marks for his "good performance" in the House during the month-long stormy budget session.

The Speaker then thanked the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for his assessment.

Continuing his winding up speech, Badruddoza Chowdhury criticised the Treasury Bench for not being "accommodating" of the Opposition's protests which, he admitted, sometimes caused noise and disturbance in the House.

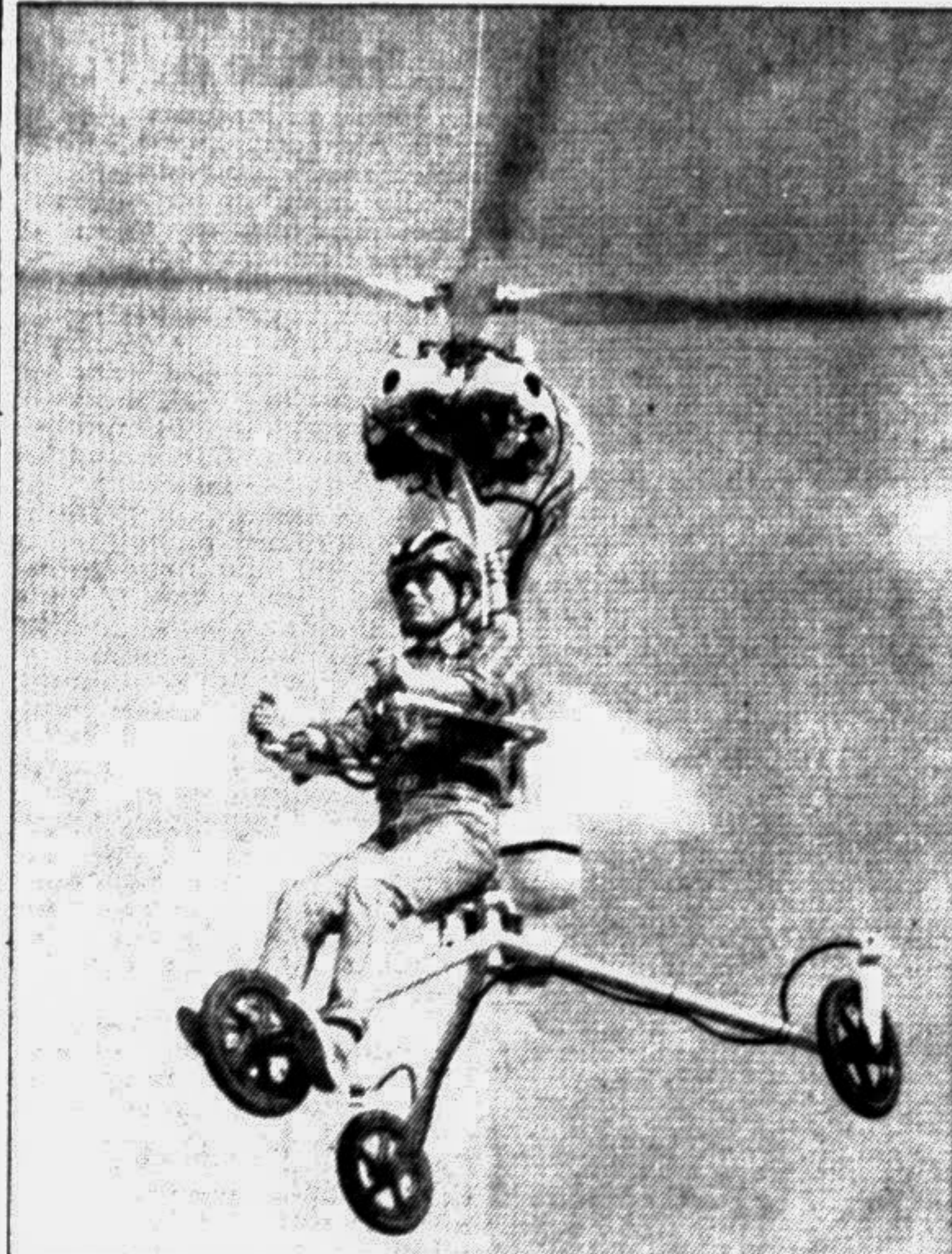
The Opposition BNP lawmakers burst into laughter and cheered their leader when Chowdhury in his usual sarcastic expression told the Chair, "Disorder resulting from the Opposition protests in the House is a common phenomenon in the parliamentary system across the world. You're there to bring back order and check disturbances of all sorts."

Humayun Rashid Chowdhury agreed with him smilingly and nodding his head.

While asking a supplementary question, ruling party MP Syed Ashraf Islam told the Speaker, "I've run out of my breath after shouting so many times to get the floor. Please, hear me carefully."

Instead of asking a question, Islam tried to tell Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak that measures to control flood in the country would never succeed nor was there any such success story across the globe.

Taking the floor promptly, a smiling Water Resources Minister responded to the ruling party MP. "He has made an excellent observation without making any query."



Katusmi Terada, president of transport machinery maker Rhyme Co., flies a prototype of his own designed small helicopter BHD-4 (Boys Dream Helicopter) during a test flight recently in Matsumoto, central Japan. The 40kg single-seater helicopter, capable of speeding 60 miles per hour and rising up to 12,000 feet, will be demonstrated in an air show in Oshkosh, USA, from 30 July and will be on sale for 20,000 US dollar from 1998. — AFP/UNB photo

## ASEAN postpones Cambodia's membership

KUALA LUMPUR, July 10: The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) announced today it had postponed Cambodia's membership but would admit Myanmar and Laos later this month, reports Reuter.

In a joint statement after an emergency meeting on the Cambodian crisis, ASEAN also said it still recognised Prince Norodom Ranariddh as co-premier of Cambodia despite his ouster by rival second prime minister Hun Sen after weekend fighting between their forces.

"ASEAN will continue to regard Ranariddh as co-premier of Cambodia," Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told reporters after the meeting. In Phnom Penh, Hun Sen told reporters before the decision to delay membership was announced that Cambodia's troubles were "our internal business".

## Housewife hacked to death

GAZIPUR, July 10: A young housewife was hacked to death and her husband critically injured by unknown assailants at Deshipara village in Sadar thana on Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Villagers said on hearing hue and cry they rushed to the house of Shafuluddin and found his wife Mozirun Nesa, 35, dead in her bedroom and Shafuluddin injured at their courtyard about 11 pm.

Police recovered the body today. The cause behind the killing could not be known. Villagers suspected land dispute might be the cause behind the killing of Mozirun Nesa who had 11 acres of ancestral land at the same village.

## Gulshan Lake to be filled up

From page 1

complete the project jointly with a local group, backed by those well-known for their current defaulting status with different banks. Rajuk officials said Indus violated the contract with it by incorporating the local firm. But the Rajuk Chairman expressed his ignorance about the local partners of the Indus.

Rajuk approved the layout plan of the project in which at least six multi-storied buildings, a five-star hotel and a hospital would be built. The high-rise structures would cater for commercial and residential purposes.

In addition, the complex would consist of health clubs, boat clubs, floating restaurants and country club.

According to Rajuk sources, the planned area covers the lake from Gulshan, Baridhara, Banani, Mahakhali and Badda.

Town planners and residents of the area expressed their surprise at the project and said it violates the building code of residential areas.

"In residential areas you are not allowed to construct beyond six stories, how is it possible to get such a project approved?" asked a town planner, who also feared rapid environmental degradation due to such massive construction. Residents alleged there was no consultation meeting with them prior to the approval of the project.

Prof Nazrul Islam of the Department of Geography and Environment of Dhaka University and Director Centre for Urban Studies, also expressed his surprise at the way such a huge project was approved.

"We spent Tk 17 crore and five long years to set the Master Plan of the city, from where such a project comes into the Master Plan?" he asked. The

## PM leaves for Germany tomorrow

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka tomorrow for Hamburg to attend an international conference on adult education, reports UNB.

Hasina will deliver the keynote address at the UNESCO sponsored conference that begins in the German city tomorrow.

German President Roman Herzog will inaugurate the five-day assembly of eminent educationists that will focus on the present global primary and mass education scenario.

During her stay in Hamburg, the Bangladesh Prime Minister will call on the German President. She will also meet with the speaker of the parliament of the west European country.

The Hamburg Mayor will host a reception in honour of the Bangladesh Prime Minister. Hasina will seize the opportunity to explain investment scope in Bangladesh to the representatives of the German industrialists and businessmen.

On July 15, she is scheduled to fly from Hamburg to the United States to see her daughter living there.

## President hosts dinner for Ministers, MPs

President Shahabuddin Ahmed hosted a dinner for the ministers and members of Parliament at Bangabhaban last night, reports UNB.

Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina and Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury attended the dinner.

Among others, state ministers, deputy ministers, deputy leader of the opposition in Parliament and chief whip of the opposition were present.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed welcomed the guests and exchanged pleasantries with them.

## Rivers in West Bengal rising alarmingly

CALCUTTA, July 10: With most of the West Bengal rivers rising alarmingly due to incessant rains in the catchment areas in the last few days, the state government will seek central grants of 600 crore rupees for flood control measures, reports PTI.

State Irrigation Minister, Debabrata Bandopadhyay, told newsmen today that he would meet Prime Minister IK Gujral, and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Madhu Dandavate, to discuss in this regard soon.

He said according to reports received here, level of most of the rivers, particularly in Coochbehar, Midnapore, Murshidabad districts, were on the rise.

The Sankosh at Joraguli was flowing just below the danger level and the Raidak was on the rise at Jaidapur.

However, the state government has undertaken several repair work on the embankments at various points in those districts.

## Chandpur irrigation project threatened by river erosion

CHANDPUR, July 10: The Tk 100 crore Chandpur irrigation project is threatened by the continuous erosion of the river Meghna near Haimchar bazar of Chandpur district, reports BSS.

According to Bangladesh Water Development Board sources, the embankment of Chandpur Irrigation Project near Haimchar bazar is now only 40 metres away from the river Meghna as erosion continues, leaving about two hundred families homeless.

If the erosion continues further, the embankment will be eroded, flooding the entire project area of 220 sq miles, sources said, adding that crops of about 75 hectares will also be damaged.

Chandpur Water Development Board officials said a protection embankment along the bank of river Meghna at Haimchar bazar had already been eroded.

## Hartal

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institutions were closed. Earlier on Tuesday, students and local people put up barricade on the road in protest of the incident.

A meeting in the thana headquarters today demanded arrest and trial of the culprits.

The SP of the district told UNB that Faisal was absconding.

## Ershad

From page 1

countries.

The additional secretary general of the party confirmed the news of Ershad going abroad but could not say how many weeks Ershad would be staying abroad.

Meanwhile, the JP presidium had decided that Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, a senior presidium member, would be the acting chairman during the absence of Ershad.

the telephone at its local office said Salem Ibrahim was out of the country but both Bhuiyan and Rahman were out of office on business.

The Chairman of Rajuk said it was in 1991-1992 that he first got in touch with Indus Valley as a prospective foreign investor. "Later, Selim Ibrahim of the company held meetings with me. We also consulted the Department of Environment and other government departments before approving the project," Khadem said.

"It would not be used for commercial purpose. Nor the lake would disappear. We are neither selling the land nor leasing it out. It would add to the environment of the area," he said.

The Chairman defended the project plans and said employment opportunities for 5,000 people would be created after it was completed. "Seventy per cent of the whole project would contain water bodies and at Banani a theme park would be built," he said.

When asked why the 75-year BOT scheme was given out for a mere Tk 40,000 per acre, he replied, "you can buy the lake for Tk 1 per acre. You see the slums which exist in the area and the numerous sewerage lines coming into the lake, do you have any other option?"

When asked how they could evict the slum dwellers when all government efforts failed in the past, Khadem replied, "Indus will compensate them."

Department of Environment sources confirmed that Rajuk never sought any approval from them about the project. "It is never a Rajuk practice to seek our approval prior to any development project," said a top DOE official.

One Mr Alam who answered

## Low-lying areas

From page 1

were moving towards safer places on the hills. About 50 country boats were seen moving towards the town seeking temporary shelter.

Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong says, low-lying areas at Sitakunda, Mirersara, Raozan, Fatikchhari and Rangunia were inundated following flash flood caused by continuous downpour.

Besides, normal life was disrupted in the port city due to the rainfall while most of people were forced to stay indoors and traffic became thin on the roads and streets.

In Chittagong Port, cargo handling works were affected due to rainfall.

According to reports received from Bandarban, about 80,000 people were affected by the flood caused by rainfall and hill water. Of them, 45,000 people have been marooned and over two thousand people took shelter in school buildings at 11 places under seven thanas, reports said.

When contacted over telephone, the staff of DC's bungalow informed that the road communication between Chittagong-Bandarban remained snapped as the road went under water.

Sources in Bandarban said Barisal Para, Army Para, Lama, Ruma, Naikongchhari were the worst affected areas.

Administration sources said Sanghu, Matamuhuri and Halda were flowing above danger level.

In Khagrachhari hill district, low-lying areas were flooded due to rain and hill waters affecting over 20,000 people, sources said.

Road communication between the thanas — Sadar and Mahalchhari — remained cut off since Wednesday.

The rains on Wednesday and Thursday flooded at least 20 villages damaging thatched houses and rice crops.

The worst hit areas of Sadar thana are Muslimpara, Rajamoni, Shabdhamapara, Pura and Colonypara.

Railway sources said rail track between Bartakia and Nizampur stations in Mirersarai thana was submerged.

Four express trains ran far behind their schedule — about one to three hours late — as the railway authorities forced to stop running trains in one of the two lines.

In Feni, incessant rain coupled with onrush of hill water submerged 15 villages in Parashuram thana.

Official sources said the railway from Fulgazi to Belonia was threatened by flood water while the Feni-Parashuram road went under water at least at three points.

The river Muhuri was flowing 48 cm over the danger level. Cracks were found in 18 points of the embankment of the Muhuri and Kahua rivers, threatening to worsen the flood situation in the affected villages.

The worst-affected villages include Sreepur, Ratanpur, Durgapur, Boroia, Rajpur, Doulatpur, Jagatpur, Ghoni-amora, Kismat Ghoni-amora, Dakkhin Sreepur, Sahapara and Jamura.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet adds: Incessant rain for the last two days have paraded the life in the town and flooded low-lying areas in Jaintapur, Gowainghat, Kanaighat and Companyganj thanas.

The road link between district headquarters and Gowainghat thana snapped this afternoon as water began to flow over the road, official

## SPA required

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Khasru, however, added: "The government is keeping maximum watch so that the law is not misused."

The minister observed that a government should be equipped with "legal mechanism" to handle miscreants and anti-social elements before they could do any harm.

Pakistan has the Security of Pakistan Act, 1952, and in India the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act 1987, was effective until a few days ago, he said.

The minister said the past BNP government, too, had enacted the Anti-Terrorism Act despite the existence of the SPA. The minister further said the SPA is not a new law as it was enacted in view of the socio-economic and political unrest following the post-independence period in the light of previous Security Act 1952, Public Safety Ordinance, 1958 and Defence of Pakistan Rules, 1965.

## Body of Mahbub

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tion and Tourism and Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir will receive the body at the ZIA.

They will hand over the body to Mahbub's father, Moazzem Hossain, at the airport. At the same time, a cheque for Tk 100,000 will also be handed over to Hossain as Biman compensation.

Later, a pickup of Biman will carry the body to Mahbub's home at village Sutiakathi of Swarupkathi thana in southern Pirojpur district, officials said.

sources said.

The water level in all the rivers in the region also marked a sharp rise, most of them crossing the red mark.

A total of 127 mm rain was recorded in Sylhet town during the last 12 hours while 186 mm rains had been recorded here till 6 am Wednesday.

Yesterday's rainfall was the highest this year, official sources claimed.

Our Rajshahi correspondent quoting Met office says about 250 mm rainfall was recorded during the last 48 hours in the district, the highest so far in the current rainy season.

Many low-lying areas of Rajshahi city went under knee-deep water affecting several thousand people. City roads at several points were also submerged due to faulty drainage system.

Rain water entered residences in many areas including Kalabagan, Shashitola, Boharampur, Binodpur, Hara-gam.

City roads and business centres mostly remained closed due to heavy downpour.

In Netrokona district, heavy rainfall flooded many areas. A vast tract of farm land and many dwelling houses were seriously affected in Durgapur thana of the district.

Dwelling houses in Birishri, Kankair-Gara, Gaonkandia, Bakaajora, Durga poura area and union, Chandigarh, Najirpur, Kamalakanda, Pogla, Bara Japon and Koliati unions under Durgapur and Kamalakanda unions, have been damaged.

Our Natore correspondent says, low-lying areas of the district and the vast Chalan Beel were submerged due to incessant rain today.

The worst-affected are Gurudaspur, Borairgam and Shingra thanas under Chalan Beel and Sadar thana.

In Kurigram district, some 15,000 people were rendered homeless as low-lying areas were inundated due to onrush of hill water and heavy fall.

Over 800 families of Raniganj thana took shelter on embankments and roads.

## Power Grid Co

From page 1

Wednesday with the appointment of a Managing Director and two Directors, says a press release.

A former general manager of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), ANM Rizwan, joined the PGCB as its Managing Director while former additional chief engineer of BPDB N G Saha and former ICMA official Anisur Rahman joined the organisation as Director (technical) and Director (finance) respectively.

To begin with, the PGCB will maintain the grid lines at Rampura. It will gradually take over all grid lines currently supervised by the BPDB.

It will also set up a National Load Despatch Centre and supervise construction of transmission lines from the proposed Meghnaghat Power Plant.

The ADB has agreed to finance laying of new transmission lines while the World Bank is expected to assist in establishing the National Load Despatch Centre.

One of the main objections of forming the company is to cut down the system loss from power distribution. The system loss incurred by the BPDB, which is now responsible for both power generation and distribution, is around 21 per cent. Experts say that at least five to six per cent of this system loss could be reduced by introducing improved management at the level of power distribution.

The PGCB has been set up as part of a condition of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for funding the 9th power project. The pressure from ADB has also pushed the government to form the Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO) which started functioning last week.

Both