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PHILIPS

IGP asks police to be people-friendly

By Staff Correspondent

The Inspector General of Police yesterday urged the members of the law enforcing agencies to discharge their duties respecting the basic principles of human rights to make police a people-friendly organisation.

"Police is run by the tax-payers' money, it is the duty of police to ensure the security of life and property of the people," said IGP Ismail Hossain while addressing the opening session of a three-day training programme on human rights.

The IGP opened the training programme at the Detective Training School. A total of 40 inspectors and sub-inspectors of Dhaka Metropolitan Police are taking part in the training programme.

The IGP said that expectation of the people from police was high and they want police to be their friends. "We could truly be the friends of people if we could fulfil their expectations by providing security," he added.

"Police is not an isolated entity, we are not administrators like the British colonial period who used police as a means of repression on the natives," he said.

He said human rights should be the prime concern of the police officials while dealing with cases. Offenders are also human beings, and they must be dealt like a human being, he added. "As long as they are not proved guilty in court, they should be

Foreign aid

From Page 1

0.4 million hectares, the foreign minister informed.

Azad said given the importance of agriculture to the economy of Bangladesh, the impact of this loss is expected to be quite severe.

Damage to the infrastructure due to flood has also been severe, the Foreign Minister said.

He informed that about 919 km of major road network and 413 km of protective embankment for these roads have been damaged. About 102 concrete bridges, 87 culverts, 12 ferry ghats and a few thousand km of feeder road were damaged.

Besides, the flood has totally damaged also about 59 km of embankment and about 789 km partially. Four sluice gates have been damaged totally and some 305 others partially. Samad said.

The damage to the educational institutions has also been severe. Many of these institutions are now being used for sheltering the flood-affected people.

The foreign minister, however, said it is not possible to assess accurately the needs for rehabilitation until the flood waters recede.

In the agriculture sector, he said, the damage to standing crops alone is estimated to have reached Tk 688 crores so far.

Azad said if waters take longer to recede, the damage will increase manifold. It will be too late by then to plant Aman crop.

In the roads and highways sector, he said it will cost the country more than Tk 180.12 crore for the repair of major roads.

The foreign minister said the cost of repair of the currently damaged embankments and related constructions will be about Tk 106 crores.

The repairing cost of educational institutions have not been assessed as yet, he added.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman were present at the briefing of foreign diplomats.

BJP allies demand

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in the United Front, the second largest opposition group in parliament, whose other constituents like Janata Dal, the left parties, and Samajwadi Party, have already supported a Congress-led government in case Vajpayee ministry falls.

It is on the issue of support to Congress soon after the previous general election produced a hung parliament that United Front suffered its first major jolt when Telugu Desam Party (TDP), ruling party in Andhra Pradesh state, pulled out and bailed out Vajpayee ministry in a confidence vote in March. The TDP had then firmly opposed to any truck with the Congress.

A similar story seems set to repeat in the case of DMK too. The DMK President and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M Karunanidhi has said it might be difficult for this party to support Congress and the reason for that he cited was the demand by Sonia Gandhi's party to proceed with the steps recommended against Karunanidhi by the final report of an official commission which probed the assassination of India's former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Like TDP, the DMK too reacted with displeasure to other United Front Constituents' separately extending support to



People trekking to the capital after traffic movement on Dhaka-Chittagong highway was suspended yesterday. — Star photo

11 jawans closed

Timber merchant killed allegedly by BDR men in Nalitabari

SHERPUR, Aug 23: Authorities closed 11 jawans of Bangladesh Rifles after a timber merchant was killed allegedly by BDR men in a camp near Ramchandrakura in Nalitabari thana on Saturday night, reports UNB.

BDR officials and police personnel, accompanied by a magistrate, visited the area this afternoon and closed the jawans due to pressure from the local people.

They also assured of disciplinary actions against the jawans.

Local people said BDR jawan Jahangir picked timber merchant Azgar Ali alias Azu (36) of Hatipagar village from a nearby tea stall and took him to the BDR camp at about 7.30 pm.

Later, they saw Jahangir and Farhad, another BDR jawan, trying to hide the body of Azu in a low land. They alleged that Azu was tortured to death in the BDR camp after he refused to share the money he got from illegal timber business.

Local people gheraoed the BDR camp in the morning and forced the BDR jawans to stay inside the camp until BDR officials came to the spot at 2.30 pm.

The closed BDR jawans were shifted to Jamalpur.

A five-member probe committee was formed. A case was filed with the local police and the body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Roads, railways

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Flood waters also damaged a 24 km railway track in the Goalundabazar-Goalanda route and trains in the route are running upto Rajbari since August 17.

Operation of trains on 2 km track in the Dhaka-Narayanganj route has been also suspended due to the floods and trains in the route is going upto Chashara station since August 13, the officials said.

Flood waters also damaged 3 km railway track along Sirajganj Bazar and Sirajganj ghat route.

Increase in the flood water might threaten some more railway routes, feared Railway officials while talking to The Daily Star yesterday. Speed limits have been imposed on the Pubail-Arikhola railway track near Dhaka and Purbadaha and Jaria Janjali near Mymensingh.

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Congress and said if each constituent party decided to take its own decision without bothering about a common stand then his party too deserved the right to do so.

AFP quoting UNI adds: Karunanidhi today said an election was inevitable as the BJP government had failed to provide stability.

Defence minister George Fernandes today accused Jayalalitha of doing 'anything and everything possible to prevent a government from settling down to governance.'

DU BCL fails to announce full-fledged body

By DU Correspondent

Some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday ransacked the Madhu's canteen at the Dhaka University as their leaders on the campus failed to announce a full-fledged committee of its DU unit yesterday.

A full-fledged committee was scheduled to be announced yesterday. The present interim committee was formed in 1994 with a president, a general secretary and an organising secretary.

Flood

From Page 1

trakona, Habiganj, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and Barisal.

The toll from flood-related deaths rose to 333 with three more deaths reported from Ra-

jhansi district.

According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Information Centre (FFWC), the Padma continued to rise at all points.

The highest 123.5 mm rainfall was recorded at Kauna, further swelling the Padma by 8 cm during the 24 hours till 9 am yesterday. The water level of the River at Pankha was 23.6 m, which is 210 cm above the danger mark.

BNP to forego festivities on its founding anniversary

By Staff Correspondent

Due to worsening flood situation in the country, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has decided to forego all sorts of festivity on the 20th founding anniversary of the party on September 1.

A BN press release said last night that the founding anniversary would rather be observed in a simple ceremony because of mounting public sufferings due to deteriorating flood situation in the country.

The party has also directed all its units across the country to take up special relief operations for the flood victims on the founding day, the release added.

Earlier on Saturday, the BNP and its allies also postponed a mass hunger strike scheduled for August 26 because of the on-going flood. The hunger strike was called to protest the reported deterioration of law and order situation in the country.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Progotishob Nari Samaj yesterday donated Tk 33 lakh and Tk 29,000 respectively to the relief fund of BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia.

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Atia forest

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rubber gardens of greater Chittagong, Sylhet and Mymensingh districts.

The rubber gardens have been developed on 32,665 acres of land at 15 places of the districts.

The committee members also discussed the performance of BFIDC, a government owned factory responsible for supplying furniture to the government offices. The members asked its chairman to take steps to make the organisation a viable one.

Chaired by Tabibur Rahman Sarder, the meeting was attended by Forest and Environment Minister Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Kader Siddiqui, Habibur Rahman Mollah, Begum Anjumanara Jamil, Golam Sarwar Hiru, Waheduzzaman Sarkar, Shamshul Islam Khan.

LPG plant

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duction of LPG within the shortest possible time.

The plant is to produce 5,000 tonnes of LPG per year (2000 bottles a day) by fractionating the Natural Gas brought from the Kailashtha Well number-2. The plant will also produce 7600 tonnes of Petrol and 8400 tonnes of Diesel per year as by-product.

The LPG Bottling Plant was constructed at a cost of Tk 24 crore, about half a kilometre off the LPG Fractionation Plant.

The LPG produced in the main plant will be taken to this plant through pipeline. The U Huan Chemical Corporation constructed the plant on Turn-Key basis.

The bottled gas will be made available to rural people in greater Sylhet at first and then in the other parts of the country to meet the demand for fuel.

Ivy Rahman added, "I met Mukuli Begum when Rubel's mother introduced her to me."

US embassy bombing in Nairobi

Three confess links with Bin Laden

NAIROBI, Aug 23: Three men have told police that with the backing of Osama bin Laden they ran a fishmongering business to cover their preparations to bomb the US embassy in Nairobi, reports AP.

The embassy bombing, on one of the Kenyan capital's most congested streets, killed 247 people and injured more than 5,000. Another 10 people died in a nearly simultaneous blast at the US Embassy in Dar es Salaam, in neighboring Tanzania.

Disguised as fish merchants delivering their Indian Ocean catch to restaurants and hotels, the trio said they tried to blend into the commercial crush around the embassy, according to Saturday's Daily Nation newspaper.

The newspaper — which earlier had reported that three men were spotted filming the embassy days before the devastating Aug 7 car-bomb attack — said the three suspects confessed to authorities that they had carried out surveillance prior to the attack.

Neither Kenyan police nor FBI officials investigating the bombing would comment on the report, which publicly named two of the suspects in custody for the first time.

They were identified as Khalid Salim, who held a Yemeni passport, and Abdallah Naha, said to be a Lebanese. US and Kenyan officials already

under questioning, the three confessed that with financial backing from millionaire Saudi militant bin Laden, they plotted the bombing while pretending to be fish merchants based in Mombasa, an Indian Ocean port city, the newspaper account said.

BNP MPs

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tion letters. Opposition Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain met the party whips on Saturday.

The meeting decided that all the five whips would continue to expedite the process of depositing the resignation letters and would sit at the Chief Whip's Sangsads Bhaban office by rotation to receive the letters.

Accordingly, Maj (Retd) Hafiz was at the Chief Whip's office yesterday. The drive would continue till August 27.

BNP would evolve a new method if all the resignation letters of party MPs are not deposited by that time, said one of the whips.

No party could confirm how many of the BNP MPs deposited their resignation letters until yesterday since the process began early this month.

JU teacher assaulted

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complaint alleged.

Following the attack, agitated students under the banner of General Students Unity (GSU) staged a sit-in front of the Vice Chancellor's office demanding stern action against the BCL leaders involved in the attack. They also brought out a procession on the campus to press home their demands.

Meanwhile, talking to newsmen, JU BCL president Nuruzzaman Sheikh yesterday claimed his organisation was not involved in the assault incident. Mentioning the name of BCL general secretary Jasimuddin Manik, he said "some persons being ordered by him (Manik) launched the attack as the teacher was taking his photograph."

The JU Teachers' Association in a statement condemned the attack on Rehnuma Ahmed and urged the authorities to take stern action against those responsible immediately. JUTA has also called an emergency meeting today to decide their next course of action.

Agitated students were held-

Train services in Dhaka, Ctg, Sylhet routes disrupted for 7 hours