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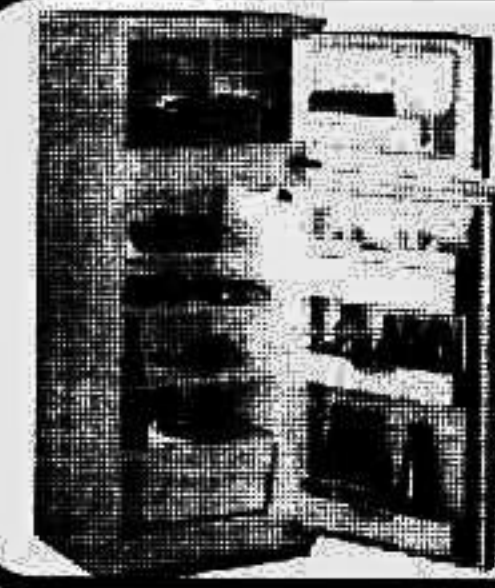
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ADP study on environmental damages

Bangladesh will need \$ 418m
a year for one decade

At least 417.89 million US dollars would be needed per year for the next 10 years as 'cost of remediation (COR)' to overcome the environmental damage already caused to Bangladesh, an Asian Development Bank (ADB) study said, reports BSS.

Chief of Environment and Social Development Division of the ADB Kazi F. Jalal, while presenting a paper of the ADB and Harvard University, said in the city yesterday that the annualised COR for 20 developing member countries of the bank for the period had been estimated at 35 billion US dollars.

Jalal, projecting the methodologies of Measuring Environmental Quality (MEQ) and Environmental Quality Indices (EQI), developed by Harvard University researchers, informed the participants at a workshop at Sonargaon Hotel that 'the Cost of Remediation (COR) assesses the cost of moving the environment from its present condition to a more de-

sirable state."

The Ministry of Forest and Environment and the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) jointly sponsored the workshop.

Environment secretary Syed Marghub Murshed, chairman of Poribesh Rokkha Shapath (POROSH) AMA Muhith, executive director of the BCAS Dr Saleemul Huq and ADB representative in Dhaka Phiphit Suphaphiphat addressed the inaugural session of the two-day workshop.

Chinese environmentalist Dr CC Yu and Kazi F. Jalal conducted the first technical session chaired by director general of Department of Environment (DOE) AR Khan.

Referring to Environmental Elasticity (EE), CC Yu said it points to the percentage change of an aggregate measure of environmental quality or stress as a result of a one per cent change in per capita GDP over a period of time.

Defining EE as a trend indicator, he said between 1980 and

the early 1990s, the environmental elasticity computed for 16 countries indicates that for three countries — Lao PDR, Myanmar and Sri Lanka — the increase of GDP growth rates was accompanied by positive environmental changes.

He said it could be either an improvement in environmental quality or a reduction in environmental stress.

Elaborating Environmental Diamond (ED), Jalal said, "the ED is a graphic representation of four sub-indices covering air (pollution), water (pollution), land (degradation) and ecosystem (health) simultaneously."

He said an analysis based on environmental diamond indicates that the Philippines and several South Asian countries, including Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, have performed better than the other Asian countries.

He noted that China and Mongolia seem to have a much worse-than-average state of the environment.

Jail killing

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on November 3, 1975. During the hearing, the judge informed the court that he had received no objection certificate from the concerned army authority with regard to trial of the accused former army personnel, according to BSS.

A prosecution counsel later said that the compliance with the Section 549 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) by the army authority in giving the no-objection certificate for trial of the accused army officials removed any legal hurdles in this regard.

The court heard both the defence and the prosecution counsels regarding the bail prayer for Khairuzzaman, division status in jail for convict Bazul Huda and permission for K M Obaidur Rahman, MP, to attend the Jatiya Sangsad session.

The Chief Special Public Prosecutor (CSPP) in the case, senior advocate Serajul Haque opposing the bail prayer said that there were certain material evidences against Khairuzzaman for his involvement in the jail killing.

About the division status for Huda in custody, the CSPP said there was no such provision in the Jail Code for a convict who had been earlier sentenced to death in a murder case.

Regarding the prayer by K M Obaidur Rahman, MP, to attend the Jatiya Sangsad session, the CSPP said, "it is the absolute discretion of the court in this matter."

Referring to the case of former president H M Ershad, who was also in jail, he said Ershad was not allowed to attend any session of the Jatiya Sangsad except taking the oath of office as MP.

The judge did not pass any order on the prayers till the hearing was adjourned.

The court, however, allowed the close relations of the accused to witness the trial and meet them during the recess of the hearing as the prosecution did not oppose the prayers.

The CSPP was assisted by the Special Public Prosecutors Shihara Khatun, Syed Rezaur Rahman, Mosharraf Hossain Kajoil, Anisul Huq and MSC Public Prosecutor Quamrul Islam.

Mahbubur Rahman, Sharfuddin Mukul, Nazrul Islam, Sanaullah Miah, and Khalilullah Majumder, among others, moved for the defence.

Jamil Majid new
envoy to Japan

Jamil Majid, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed ambassador to Japan, an official announcement said yesterday, reports BSS.

A career diplomat, Majid joined the Foreign Service in 1970. He represented Bangladesh at several international meetings and conferences.

Team leaves

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said that the first trial run of the bus service between Dhaka and Calcutta is expected to be inaugurated on February 28 or March 7.

The Indian side at the talks will be led by K R Bhatti, Joint Secretary of the surface communications ministry.

This is the third meeting between the officials of the two countries on the subject of opening direct bus route.

A draft of the proposed agreement has already been agreed to by the two sides. The draft is expected to be signed into an agreement on February 17.

Showcause

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Mohammad Latifur Rahman. The court requested Shawkat Ali Khan and Jamiruddin Sircar, senior advocates to be present on March 1 as amicus curiae.

The HC also ordered that notices will be served immediately in this regard by a special messenger of the court.

"Read the Daily Ittefaq dated 10th to 12th February, 1999 and the copies are kept with the record, the order said.

Several opposition political parties including BNP observed nationwide hartal for 60 hours from February 9-11.

During the period, both the opposition and the ruling parties brought out processions and held rallies for and against hartal.

The clashes between the activists claimed six lives including a police constable and a student, caused injuries to several hundreds of people, damaged both public and private properties, obstructed normal life of the common people and as a whole caused damage to the national economy.

Police maimed by
criminals in city

By Staff Correspondent

The right-hand-wrist of a police constable was chopped off at the Motijheel rail line slum under Motijheel thana in the city in the late hours of Sunday.

The constable was identified as Asalat Khan.

The incident occurred when a three member team comprising of two constables, including Asalat and an Ansar personnel captured a suspected criminal, at around 11:30 p.m.

Three accomplices of the arrested person suddenly appeared after the arrest and a light ensued between the criminals and the law enforcers.

At one point, one of the three attackers stabbed Asalat with a sharp weapon and then escaped the scene with the arrested criminal.

Later, Motijheel police arrested four persons for their alleged involvement in the attack on the police personnel. However, Motijheel police said that they are yet to nab the criminal whose arrest had triggered the incident.

Two separate cases were lodged with the Motijheel thana in this regard yesterday.

Reaz Rahman

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joining of internationally renowned diplomat will obviously strengthen the current anti-government agitation.

"BNP always welcome meritorious people like Reaz Rahman in the party. We hope more brilliant sons of the soil will soon join BNP for the betterment of the countrymen," the BNP chief said.

Reaz Rahman in his brief speech said the reason behind his joining the BNP was that 'there was no alternative to BNP in Bangladesh's politics.' He also said that he was impressed by BNP's pro-people and pro-development politics.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, M Morshed Khan MP, M M Rezaul Karim were present on the occasion.

Rahman joined the civil service in 1963 and discharged various important duties. Prior to retirement, he was Bangladesh's Permanent Representative in UN.

AJM polls

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by workers' unions, the HC on August 20 had directed the government to hold CBA polls of AJM within six months of the order.

The last election of the CBA was held on March 11, 1990. Within nine months of the election, at least 11 persons were killed in armed clashes among rival workers' unions over dominance of the mill area. The then elected committee could enter the AJM only after a bloody clash with their rival union.

Leaders of different unions yesterday told The Daily Star that they were frightened of bloodshed as they fear armed terrorists might attack voters and try to influence votes through muscle power.

Jatiya Party-backed Samik Union leader Delwar Hossain said the ruling party-backed workers' union were prepared to rig the polls.

A total of five unions are contesting in the polls while some 20,800 voters are likely to cast their votes.

Liaison body

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"We will sit today to finalise the date for announcement of the hartal programme. The programme may be announced simultaneously from press conferences or public meetings of the four parties in the capital on February 18," said a committee member.

Meanwhile, the city unit of the liaison committee held a meeting yesterday at the Jatiya Party central office with JP leader Saifur Rahman in the chair.

Meeting sources said it discussed how to ensure strong picketing during the 96-hour hartal, especially in areas of the ruling party's 'showdown'.

The meeting decided to instruct activists to first try to picket peacefully and to be defensive. They are to be offensive if the ruling party tries to obstruct them as in the past.

The meeting was attended by, among others, BNP leaders Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Salahuddin Ahmed, Kamrul Islam, Abdus Salam and Kazi Abul Bashir, JP leaders Tahir Rahman, Jahangir Hossain, Jamaat leader A T M Azharul Islam.

CHT: Displaced people

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a wide range of issues from conceptual consideration to CHT development were presented at the conference. Among those presenting papers were Dr David Turton, Director, Refugee Studies Programme of Oxford University, Afsan Chowdhury from the Disaster Forum, Philip Gain of Society from Environment and Human Development (SEHD), Dr Md Z Mahmud and Prof KB Sajjadur Rashid from Dhaka University, Ina Hume from CIDA and Shahjada Akram, Shahanka Saadi and two other members of the Young Researchers' Forum of RMMRU.

Presenting her case study on Sajek Valley, Ina Hume said, people in the locality had reported that they were having live off wild jungle potatoes due to lack of proper food or adequate. She added that the Baghaichhari thana health complex had been without a doctor for eight years.

As Ina Hume dwelt on IDPs in CHT, young researchers of RMMRU presented a gloomy picture of a different set of people who had

been exposed to displacement due to the flood in 1998.

Upon interviewing 100 families in three thanas of Jamalpur district, they found that natural calamities and river erosion are instrumental in enforcing displacement of people within the country.

UNHCR representative Hovell told the conference that involuntary displacement raises many human rights issues. Referring to the fact that South Asia provides a kaleidoscope of the various types of involuntary migration, Hovell said, Bangladesh had a wealth of experience on which to draw from in trying to cope with displacement.

Prof Prof KB Sajjadur Rashid of Geography Department, DU, discussed the rise in sea-level and apprehensions that one fifth of Bangladesh would be submerged in the Bay of Bengal by 2050. He came up with the novel plan of 'demographic globalization', according to which, people at risk due to sea-level rise can migrate out of the danger areas.

BNP stages brief walkout

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under a caretaker government. But the hartals now have no such issue of national interest, he added.

He also criticised the BNP for holding a voterless election on February 15, 1996.

Given the floor to ask a supplementary question, MK Anwar also spoke in Tofail-style. He referred to the AL-sponsored hartal for 173 days which, he said, destroyed the national economy during the BNP rule. "They (AL) came to power through a conspiracy and rigged elections only to establish dominance of another country," the former commerce minister said.

Taking the floor again, Tofail blasted Anwar saying "it does not suit a man like Anwar

to speak against politics of destruction". He alleged that Anwar lost job on corruption charges while he was the deputy commissioner of Dhaka in

1969 and claimed helping him to get back his job.

Tofail further alleged that Anwar indulged in corrupt practices while he was the commerce in the previous BNP government.

But Anwar strongly denied both the charges and demanded a probe into those, either by the Speaker or a High Court judge.

The BNP lawmaker threw a challenge saying that he would resign from Parliament and accept any punishment if any charge of corruption in his 34 years of government service or

as minister was proved. He also hinted at corrupt practices by the industries minister but did not elaborate.

Retorting to Tofail's comment on the February 15, 1996 polls, the opposition lawmaker termed the June 1996 general elections unfair and rigged. In this context, he cited an election tribunal's judgment against the result of Dhaka-10 constituency.

"But election tribunal verdict in case of a single constituency does not prove that the entire elections were unfair," Tofail argued. Similar judgements were given against the 1991 election of a BNP MP in Comilla and that of a Jamaat MP in Patuakhali in 1996, he noted.

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Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net