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Flood situation improves further

The overall flood situation across the country continued to improve with fall of most of the rivers as the monsoon was less active till 9am yesterday, reports UNB.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said the flood situation in Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Bogra and Jamalpur districts will continue to improve with the receding of water level further.

The prevailing flood situation in Sirajganj, Pabna, Natore and Naogaon will improve further while it will start improving in Chapainawabganj.

RU BCL factions clash: 5 injured

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAH, Sept 4: At least five students were injured when two factions of the ruling party student front clashed at the Sher-e-Bangla Hall of the Rajshahi University last night.

The clash erupted when supporters of RU BCL president Shaifque group ransacked a room used by RU BCL general secretary Pintu group.

The Shaifque group stabbed the boarders indiscriminately and drove them away from the hall, RU sources said.

Two BCL leaders—Debotosh Chakrabarty and Rezaul Islam—were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Meanwhile, Pintu group, tried to enter the hall this morning but failed in the wake of resistance from Shaifque group. Previous rivalry over formation of a new committee might be the cause of clash between the two factions, the sources added.

A tense situation was prevailing on the campus as both the BCL factions have taken position in the hall.

A heavy contingent of police has been deployed to bring the situation under control.

Hasina to visit Rajshahi today

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAH, Sept 4: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will visit Rajshahi tomorrow. She will attend the passing out parade of the 98 batch of Apprentice Assistant Police Supers and deliver a speech at Sardar Police Academy under Charghat thana.

Later she will address a public meeting at PN High School Playground in Puthia thana headquarters at noon.

30 resolutions adopted

From page 1 delegates, Prince Ranariddh was elected Vice-president of the AAPP.

Quazi Manjur-i-Mowla, Secretary General of the conference, presented the conference report.

Earlier, at the final plenary session, heads of delegates signed the charter of the AAPP and adopted the resolutions.

Sheikh Hasina hoped that launching of the AAPP would bring Asia to the forefront in the coming century, forge unity among the people's representatives and among the peoples in the continent.

"It will make the peoples more aware of the need for peace and inspire and equip them to attain, sustain and further the process. This is just a beginning. We have a long way to go. We must be able to turn this association into a truly effective one."

She said the association must reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people of Asia, contribute significantly to the process already initiated to banish poverty and to improve the quality of their lives.

"Our association will promote a culture of peace throughout the continent and the world at large. This none of us can do alone... We must do it together, hand in hand. The association is born out of our unity. This unity must last forever," she noted.

Hasina promised to do her best to serve the AAPP not only as its President but whenever she could. Collaboration among the parliamentarians and civil society representatives is most crucial for advancing the cause of peace, she noted.

Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury told the closing ceremony that the parliamentarians who attended the conference demonstrated their willingness to strengthen partnerships at the national, regional and international levels.

"In a political period when democratic representation of our societies is questioned, it is more essential than ever to underline the importance of our Houses, Congresses and Assemblies. We represent the will of the people and embody the sovereignty of states."

Referring to some important resolutions of the conference, he said, "We have identified a number of priority areas which will constitute our main objectives in the following months. These include the worthy agreement by all to initiate the process of drafting an Asian Charter of Human Rights... We have recommended to the governments to reduce defence budget to commit greater resources towards the welfare of the peoples."

Rajbari, Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Manikganj, Munshiganj and Chandpur during the next 24 hours.

Flood situation in and around Dhaka and Narayan-ganj will also improve.

In Barisal, flood situation in seven thanas worsened.

An old woman, identified as Karimnassa, 55, of East Barhi drowned in the flood water yesterday.

A vast tract of croplands at

Muladi, Gouranadi, Agailjhara, Wazirpur, Babuganj, Hilla and Mehendiganj thanas submerged afresh, sources said.

The worst affected areas are—Shikarpur, Satla and Doarika of Wazirpur, Bagda, Rajbari, Bakal of Agailjhara, Chhabipur, Batamara, Krishnapur of Muladi, Abupur, Bausla, Gourabadi, Memania of Hilla, Sripur, Ramchar, Alimabad in Mehendiganj, Mirganj, Kedarpur of Babuganj and Municipal area and Barhi of Gouranadi.

Lockwood

From page 1 Cooperation (APCPC) which ended yesterday.

Talking to BSS Lockwood said, "What I have said I have said. I stand by my remarks on the absence of the opposition parties in the conference and my remarks, I consider, were faithfully reported by most of the newspapers."

Lockwood said he did not have any intention to undermine any political party or any politician by expressing his disappointment at the abstention of BNP and other opposition members from the APCPC.

He, however, declined to give any reaction to the BNP's Standing Committee Member Saifur Rahman's protest through a press statement over his remarks.

He said, "I do not want to be dragged into controversy and make it an issue. I feel Rahman made his own interpretation by going through newspaper reports as he was not present on the occasion. I did not talk to him till now but I will talk to him over the matter."

Lockwood speaking at the inaugural session of the APCPC organised by the government and UNDP criticised the opposition lawmakers for staying away from the conference and parliament saying "their absence hurts the nation, not the ruling party."

Saifur Rahman while protesting said Lockwood had no right to undermine the political parties and politicians in such a manner.



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Kalabagan Playground in the city yesterday. — Star photo

AAPP launched

From page 1 at a place within Asia. "The Secretariat, including the Secretary General, shall rotate annually with the Presidency of the Association from the country hosting one conference to the country hosting the next conference."

The charter also said that the association shall have an affiliated body to be known as Association of Secretaries General of Asian Parliaments. Manjur-i-Mowla, secretary to the Bangladesh parliament, has been elected the first Secretary General.

Defining Asia geographically, the AAPP charter said, "Asia includes the states belonging to the Asia and Pacific group in accordance with the practice of the United Nations and the states parts of which are in Asia."

According to the charter, the president of the association shall be elected by the general assembly of members on a majority of votes.

The general assembly will consist of the president, vice president, members of the executive council and a maximum of three members from the legislature of each country.

The Executive Council will consist of president, vice president and twelve members elected by the General Assembly. However, each member has to belong to any of the six regional groups, while no more than two representatives will be elected from each of the groups.

The six regional groups include South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, West Asia, Northeast Asia and the Pacific. The SAARC countries form the South Asia group and ASEAN countries constitute the Southeast Asia group. The Central Asia group comprises Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Russian Federation and Uzbekistan. The West Asia group com-

Cambodia to host next AAPP conference

The next conference of the Association of the Asian Parliamentarians for Peace (AAPP) will be held in Cambodia, reports BSS.

"We are overwhelmed by your kind endorsement and support of our candidature for hosting the next conference," Prince Norodom Ranariddh, President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Vice President of AAPP told the concluding session of the Asian lawmakers' conference yesterday.

SAARC summit
Nepali FM in city to seek Hasina's advice

Nepal will seek advice from Bangladesh regarding the holding of the upcoming SAARC Summit in Kathmandu in November. Nepal's Foreign Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat said in the city yesterday.

Talking to BSS on arrival at Zia International Airport, Dr. Mahat said Kathmandu wants to further develop relations with Dhaka and learn from its experience.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad received Dr Mahat at the airport. The principal objective of his visit is to extend invitation to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on behalf of Nepali Prime Minister, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai to attend the 11th SAARC Summit, beginning November 26 at Kathmandu, Dr Mahat said.

"I will seek advice from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the formulation of agenda and other issues relating to the Summit," he said in a brief statement. He described Nepal's relations with Bangladesh as "excellent."

Madhu Raman Acharya, Nepalese Ambassador to Bangladesh was present at the airport.

prises Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The Northeast Asia group consists of China, North Korea, Japan, Mongolia and South Korea, while the Pacific group comprises Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and any other country not included in the previous groups.

"The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Council shall be a minimum of one half of its members plus one," the AAPP charter said.

The official language of the Association shall be English. But the members belonging to the Arab states will be allowed to intervene in Arabic in all official meetings of the association to be accompanied by interpreters.

Accord

From page 1 the Wye River land-for-security agreement, which was signed nearly a year ago at the White House, but was suspended by Netanyahu after the first of three stages of implementation.

For Albright, the deal marked a diplomatic triumph. A report from Jericho adds: Palestinians will not unilaterally declare an independent state until at least September 2000 under the terms of their new peace deal with Israel.

"I do not think we can declare a Palestinian state now between the period September 13, 1999, when final status negotiations begin, and September 13, 2000, the target date for their completion, negotiator, Saeb Erekat told Reuters today.

Babu

From page 1; said last night. CID investigators yesterday interrogated seven UCBL directors, including Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury and two staff of the bank, at its head office in connection with the August 26 incident.

The others interrogated include directors Jahangir Alam Khan, Munwara Jahangir, Shwaket Aziz Russel, an official and a guard. The interrogation lasted four hours from 11-30 am.

CID is likely to interrogate the some more directors and officials tomorrow afternoon. According to CID sources, the directors told the investigators that their relationship with Babu deteriorated after the murder of Humayun Zahir in 1993.

Sensing trouble, the board meeting scheduled for 9 am on August 26 was shifted to 4 pm. Precautionary measures were also taken to avoid any untoward incident. Guards were alerted, collapsible gate was locked and operation of lifts at the building were closed.

At around 3:30 pm, Babu and his men broke open the collapsible gate and entered the board room in presence of police and went on rampage, sources said quoting the directors.

The directors also said they recognised Chandra Kumar Chakma, Assistant Commissioner of police. He was present with his force during the incident and allegedly did not take any action against the attackers, they said, according to CID sources.

The investigators would interrogate the AC and the policemen who were deployed in the area, a CID official said.

Transport strike in Gaibandha today

GAIBANDHA, Sept 4: Transport Workers Union has called a half-day transport strike from 6 am to 12 noon in the district tomorrow demanding arrest of the killers of a truck worker, reports UNB.

Khaleda

From page 1 zaman Babu for vandalism at a bank because of lack of "green signal from higher level," she said quoting press reports.

The government is spending Tk 500 to 600 crore from people's tax money for establishing the name of a family, she claimed without mentioning any name.

Addressing the meeting, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan alleged that the government filed at least 10,000 false cases against some 70,000 BNP leaders and activists in last three years.

Presided over by local BNP leader Abdul Latif, it was addressed by, among others, party Standing Committee members Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed and Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Kurshid Jahan Haq MP, city BNP Convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Joint Convenor Abdus Salam, Selima Rahman, Salahuddin Ahmed and Kishak Dal leader Mujibur Rahman.

APCPC: Heads of delegation call on President

President Shahabuddin Ahmed has acclaimed formation of the Association of Asian Parliamentarians for Peace (AAPP) as a milestone in the history of Asian peace-loving people's endeavour, reports UNB.

The President's appreciation came when heads of delegation of the countries attending the Asian Parliamentarians' Conference for Peace and Cooperation made a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban yesterday evening.

"Bangladesh can play a positive and dynamic role in world peace, as Dhaka became the founding head of the new body of Asian lawmakers," he said.

President expressed his deep satisfaction over the holding of first joint peace conference of Asian parliamentarians and representatives of civil society here.

"Bangladesh remains totally committed to peace in our sub-continent, in our Asian region and in the world. Bangladesh has demonstrated by its actions since independence the strength of its commitment to peace," he said.

Heads of delegations included President of the National Assembly of Cambodia and AAPP Vice-president Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, Sri Lankan Parliament Speaker KB Ratnayake, Malaysian Parliament Speaker Tun Mohammad Zahir Bin Haji Islam and Syrian Speaker Abd Razak Awab.

Among the delegation members were also Deputy Speakers of Nepal, Palestine, Russia and Yemen, and members of parliament and representatives from Bhutan, Iraq, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Laos, the Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Qatar, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Iran.

WHO DG due today

Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), arrives in the city today to attend the 52nd session of its Regional Committee for South East Asia, reports BSS.

The Director General will be accompanied by Executive Directors Jonas Store, Dr S Lyagoubi-Ouahchi and Dr Y Suzuki.

This will be Dr Brundtland's first visit to Bangladesh since she took office as the Director General of WHO. Senior health officials from all the 10 member states of the region, representatives from other United Nations agencies, as well as a number of non-governmental organisations, will also be present.

ISI no threat to holding polls: Basu

CALCUTTA, Sept 4: West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu today categorically said that "ISI factor" would not pose any threat to the holding of a peaceful Lok Sabha polls in the state, reports PTL.

"ISI is no factor" the Chief Minister told newsmen at the Writers Buildings here after holding a crucial meeting with officials of the state administration and election department to review law and order situation and election preparations.

Basu asserted that ISI would not be a factor in disturbing the October 3 polls in West Bengal.

The meeting, held to review law and order situation and election preparations, particularly in the light of activities of the Pakistani ISI and disruptive elements in recent time, was attended by state home minister Buddhadev Bhattacharjee, chief electoral officer J Sircar, Chief Secretary Manish Gupta, home Secretary S N Roy, besides district magistrates and superintendents of police.

Basu said that he had instructed the district magistrates and superintendents of police to ensure that the coming parliamentary polls in the state were held in an impartial way, and that there was no law and order problem.

Mugger

From page 1 but two others managed to escape.

The mob then started beating Shaheen. Police rescued him in a critical condition and sent him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Earlier, two other alleged muggers, identified as Mintoo and Dula, were beaten to death by a mob in the city's North Jatrahari area on September 1.

Gas line

From page 1 Chairman Mosharraf Hossain, GTCL Managing Director Momentun Haq, Project manager of R-A Gas Transmission Line, Salek Sufi presented the key note paper.

Mosharraf Hossain said the Draft RFP prepared by the government will be examined, modified if necessary and finalised, taking suggestions from the foreign companies. "This seminar is likely to set a new trend in the normal tendering process. The model may be used in case of any large project involving foreign investment before soliciting bids."

In the key-note paper, Salek Sufi said the R-A Gas Transmission Line will be a major loop line to "evacuate" gas from Sylhet area to Chittagong and Dhaka region. By 2001-2002, Petrobangla intends to increase the gas supply by 180 million cubic feet per day (mmcf). The North-South (N-S) Pipeline in that region, having a capacity to transmit 330 mmcf of gas, is nearly saturated now as it is already supplying 300 mmcf.

New gas wells are being drilled at Rashidpur, Habiganj and Titas and there are possibilities of supply of gas from Kailashilla, Jalalabad, Beani-bazar and Bibiyana.

"Unless the loop line is implemented, the N-S Pipeline will not be able to carry the additional gas," Salek said. "This will create two problems. The IOG (Occidental-Unocal developed) gas can not be purchased as per commitment and utilised; and the downstream gas demand can not be utilised. Both these issues would have tremendous financial impact."

Around 900 mmcf of gas is now being produced in the country against the demand for 1000 mmcf.

Gas production will increase to 1335 mmcf in 2001 and facilities will have to be developed for transmission, Salek said. When completed, the R-A pipeline will transmit an additional 500 mmcf of gas from 2005. As per the proposal, the first phase, with a transmission capacity of 250 mmcf, will be completed by 2001, and it may earn a revenue of 15 million US dollars.

Focusing on the demand scenario, Salek pointed out that the power sector alone will require 819 mmcf of gas in 2001, which will be double the present demand. "In general, it is anticipated that there will be an additional demand for 300 mmcf of gas in 2001."

ISI activities

From page 1 Pakistan, the report said, adding it is precisely in view of the fact that both the countries (India and Bangladesh) have been trying to avoid any confrontation like the recent exchange of fire on the Tripura-Bangladesh border between BSF and IBP.

The report said two incidents like the killing of a political leader, Kazi Aref, and unearthing of a 'killing field' in Dhaka have angered the Bangladesh government.

The paper said quoting NGO reports that the 'killing field' had thrown up evidence of the genocide committed by Pakistan forces in 1971.

Ashulia safe haven for criminals

Ashulia, a favourite spot for the city dwellers for its natural beauty, located about four kilometers from the metropolitan city, now has turned into a safe haven for criminals, reports UNB.

Thousands of people who throng the area to enjoy their leisure time with their family members or friends and see the sunset from an open space are facing harassment by local youths in absence of police action.

Police could not take any action against these unruly elements due to complex location of Ashulia, situated at the junction of three thanas Savar, Uttara and Tongi.

Many victims complained that the youths are engaged in different crimes like hijacking, snatching, and teasing. Allegations of violating girls are also there.

"But police took regular toll from the criminals, which encouraged them to be arrogant," local people alleged.

One Advocate Obaid, and members of two other families who visited the area Thursday lost gold chain and cash money following an altercation with some local *maastans*.

The victims contacted Tongi thana and Uttara thana, but

police allegedly showed reluctance to help them, saying the area is not under their jurisdiction.

The Officer-in-Charge of Uttara thana, however, denied the allegation, claiming that he had sent his force immediately after receiving the complaint, but police did not find any one over there.

Ashulia is a beautiful spot where several decorated motorised boats and floating restaurants operate for entertaining the visitors.

"On holidays, thousands of people visit the area which has no arrangement for police security," said one Dalia, who visited Ashulia with his friend.

A young girl, who was victimised last week by youngsters, said it was a traumatic experience for her. When her boy friend protested, the *maastans* assaulted him and touched her.

A vendor in the area said that each and every day some *maastans* come here riding microbus or motorbike and disturb the visitors. Everybody knows them but none dares to protest.

Local people said a police station is urgently needed there to ensure security to the visitors.

Road march

From page 1 march from Amin Bazar under Savar thana at 10 am after addressing a public meeting there. She will address public meetings at Savar Bazar at 11:30 am, Bojhata under Dhamrai thana at 12:30 pm, Nayadingr under Shaturia thana at 1:30 pm, Manikganj bus stand at 2:30 pm, Banajuri under Gheor thana at 3:40 pm and Aricha Ghat under Shibahaya thana at 4:40 pm.

Party sources said all members of the BNP Standing Committee, Advisory Council, MPs, leaders and members of the National Executive Committee, presidents and general secretaries of all front organisations will participate in the march.



National Museum of Science & Technology

Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

Offer of Education Stipend to Meritorious Poor Innovative Students (male/female) during 1999-2000 financial year under "Young & Non-professional Scientists' Innovated Projects Development" project.

Under the project "Young & Non-professional Scientists' Innovated Projects Development" run by National Museum of Science & Technology —

- One year stipend will be offered to students (male/female) studying in class VI to X in Junior Group & to students (male/female) studying in class XI and above in Senior Group.

- Rate of stipend per month is Tk 200/= in Junior Group & Tk 300/= in Senior Group.

- Only the meritorious poor innovative students (male/female) participating in innovative project competition of National Science & Technology Week or any other national or international science exhibition can apply.

Applications in plain paper with the undermentioned information are invited from students (male/female) fulfilling the said terms & conditions.

(1) Name of applicant, (2) Father's/guardian's name, (3) Address, (4) Name & address of educational institution, (5) Class & (6) Roll No.

The undermentioned papers should accompany the application

1. Attested true copy of the certificate awarded for prize/participation in National Science & Technology Week or any other national or international science exhibition.

2. True copy of progress report of last annual examination and the last examination attested by respective head of institution.

3. Yearly income certificate of the guardian issued by the respective head of institution.

4. Certificate on rate of attendance in class during the current academic year issued by the head of educational institution & one copy attested photograph.

It may be noted that the Senior Group applicants shall have to send attested copy of mark sheets of SSC, HSC, Degree examinations etc. (as applicable in respective case), besides the papers mentioned at serials 1-4 with the application.

Application should reach the undersigned by 27 September, 1999.

Md Habibur Rahman Chowdhury

Director

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Editor: Mahf