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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

RAJSHAHI, 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 Shafique group ransacked a room used by RU BCL general secretary Pintu group.

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

Two BCL leaders — Debobosh Chakrabarty and Reazul 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 Shafique 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

RAJSHAHI, 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 Sardah Police Academy under Charchhat thana.

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

## 30 resolutions adopted

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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 delegations signed the charter of the AAPP and adopted the resolutions.

In her speech, 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 carry forward 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 one 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 needed. 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 As-

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

Flood situation in and around Dhaka and Narayanganj will also improve.

In Barisal, flood situation in seven thanas worsened.

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

A vast tract of croplands at Muladi, Gouranadi, Agajhara, Wazirpur, Babuganj, Hija and Mehendiganj thanas submerged afresh, sources said.

The worst affected areas are Shikarpur, Satia and Doarka of Wazirpur, Bagda, Rajbari, Bakal of Agajhara, Chhajipur, Batamara, Krishnapur of Muladi, Abupur, Bauzia, Gourabadi, Memania of Hija, Sripur, Ramchar, Alimabad in Mehendiganj, Mirganj, Kedarpur of Babuganj and Municipal area and Barthi of Gouranadi.

## Lockwood

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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 form staying away from the conference and parliament saying "their absence hurts the nation, not the ruling party."

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.

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-



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Kalabagan Play ground 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."

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## 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.

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.

Addressing the meeting, BNP Secretary General Abdul Manan 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 Moshtarak Hossain, Kursheed Jahan Haq MP, city BNP Convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Joint Convenor Abdus Salam, Selima Rahman, Salauddin Ahmed and Krishak Dal leader Mujibar Rahman.

APCPC: Heads of delegation call on President

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

The President's appreciation came when heads of delegations 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.

The others interrogated your kind endorsement and support of our candidate 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.

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 Chanda 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.

"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.

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 rest of the killers of a truck worker, reports UNB.

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.

## 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 PTI.

"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 any 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.

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