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Natural disasters Apply latest science to reduce loss of life & property: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has emphasised applying knowledge of science and technology for reducing loss of life and resources during natural calamities, reports UNB.

"Advancement of science has facilitated latest information system, technology and knowledge to cope with disasters effectively," she said addressing the inaugural function of the International Decade for Disaster Reduction Day at Osmani auditorium yesterday morning.

The prime minister said natural disasters forced people to change their life style, and development programmes and ecological balance faced frequent threats, as Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world.

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Day is very important to Bangladesh, Hasina said, adding that in order to face disaster successfully, this decade has given an opportunity of new thinking in development of disaster management.

This year's theme of the Day is "Prevention Pays — Science and Technology for Disaster Prevention Saves Lives and Secures Assets".

The Day was observed across

Canadian wins Nobel Economics Prize

STOCKHOLM, Oct 13: Robert Mundell, whose research on monetary and fiscal policy, under different exchange rate regimes pointed the way to Europe's economic and monetary union, won the 1999 Nobel Economics Prize today, reports Reuters.

Robert Mundell has established the foundation for the theory which dominates practical policy considerations of monetary and fiscal policy in open economies," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in awarding the prize, worth nearly one million dollar.

Mundell, born in Canada in 1932, currently teaches at Columbia University, New York, and has long been considered a contender for the world's top economics honour.

His work on monetary dynamics and optimum currency areas, dating back nearly 40 years, has inspired generations of researchers and constitutes the core of teaching in international macroeconomics.

But it remains intensely relevant to policy-makers, most recently in discussions on setting up the single European currency.

A seminal article on optimum currency areas he wrote in 1961 examined the way regional labour markets within a currency zone can adjust to economic shocks, and is a starting point for the theory behind the euro.

Lars Svensson, a member of the Swedish academy, recalled how the Swedish economy overheated and the crown had to be floated in the late 1980s when the government failed to apply Mundell's theories.

"Now we have monetary policy with an inflation target that works very well in stabilising the economy," he said.

Mundell's research answers questions such as how monetary and fiscal policy affect the integration of international capital markets, how these effects depend on whether a country fixes its currency or allows it to float freely, and whether a country should even have a currency of its own.

Elected govt can also be despotic: CJ

Chief Justice Mostafa Kamal yesterday said a democratically elected government is not necessarily a democratic and open government, reports UNB.

"It has often been found in history that a democratically elected government can also be despotic and autocratic in practice," he told an international conference in Durban, South Africa.

The Bangladesh chief justice made the observations in a keynote paper on "Ethics, Accountability and Good Governance" in a plenary session of the 9th International Anti-Corruption Conference.

A message received in Dhaka said the session was chaired by South African Education Minister Kader Asnal.

The Chief Justice is leading a delegation to the meet. Other members of the delegation are Dr Kamal Hossain, Prof Khan Sarwar, Murshid, Barrister Mainul Hossain (Retd), Akhtaruzzaman MP, Bariuzzaman and Manjoor Hasan.

"As fish starts getting rotten from the head, good governance starts sliding from the hands of the people when the top people in parliament, executive and judiciary put rules and regulations aside and start ruling by the rule of thumb," he said.

Woman gangraped for three days

NAOGAON, Oct 13: Miscreants gangraped a young woman for three days at village Saraswatipur in Mohadevpur thana of the district, reports UNB.

Police said Anisur Rahman of village Chakararia of the thana, lured the victim, promising a job and took her to his rice mill at Saraswatipur. Anis and four of his accomplices raped the 22-year-old woman at the mill for three days.

On the third night on October 9, the woman managed to flee from captivity and took shelter at Naohata police camp. Later, she filed a case in Mohadevpur thana.

Dewanganj

From page 1
Police resorted to lath-charge, fired tear gas shells and blank shots to disperse the processionists. At least 38 BNP activists were injured in police action.

The seriously injured policemen — Joyral Abdin, Shahjahan, Mofiz, Chittaranjan and Shamsul Haque — were admitted to Jamalpur General Hospital.

Jamalpur district unit of BNP has called a day-long hartal at Dewanganj thana headquarters tomorrow protesting 'police attack' on the processionists.

Opposition's 'protest day' today

By Staff Correspondent
The BNP-led opposition alliance will observe "protest day" across the country today in protest against the killing of a BNP leader at Dewanganj in Jamalpur during observance of the alliance's Anti-aggression Day on Monday.

Advocate Abdur Razzak, president of Dewanganj thana unit of BNP and former general secretary of RUCSU, was killed in an attack allegedly by activists of the ruling Awami League.

As part of the protest day programme, BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islamic Oikya Jote will simultaneously hold protest rallies and bring out processions in the cities and district and thana headquarters.

Besides, four opposition parties — Jagpa, Democratic League, Progressive Nationalist Party and Nationalist Democratic Alliance — will observe the protest day and will hold rallies and bring out processions.

In the capital, BNP will hold a public rally at Muktangan at 3 pm and bring out a procession.

JP, Jamaat and IOJ will organise separate rallies in the afternoon at Kalabagan, North Gate of Baitul Mukarram and Purana Paltan mosque compound respectively.

By-elections EC to hold meeting with law-enforcing agencies today

By Staff Correspondent
Election Commission will hold a meeting with high officials of the military, para-military and various law-enforcing agencies this afternoon to ensure peaceful by-elections in the Faridpur-4 and Tangail-8 constituencies.

The by-election in the Faridpur-4 constituency of Jatiya Sangsad is scheduled to be held on October 27 while polling in the Tangail-8 constituency will take place on November 15.

According to the EC secretary, the Commission has invited certain top officials of Bangladesh Army, BDR, Police, Ansars and VDP and National Security Intelligence to the meeting. Besides, Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of the Faridpur and Tangail districts have also been asked to attend today's meeting at the EC secretariat.

JCD calls strike at all varsities today

By DU Correspondent
BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) will enforce a strike at all universities of the country today to press home their demands, including resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The demands also included withdrawal of false 'cases' filed against JCD men and release of its activists.

Meanwhile, leaders and activists of JCD brought out a procession and held a rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday in support of today's strike.

Hasina greets Vajpayee

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday felicitated Atal Behari Vajpayee on his assumption of the office of Prime Minister of India and conveyed cordial greetings on behalf of the government and people of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina wished Vajpayee every success in his new appointment and expressed the belief that the people of India would benefit from his enlightened leadership.

The Prime Minister expressed hope that the friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and India would be further cemented in the days to come, and conveyed Bangladesh's full cooperation in this regard.

Demolition drive resumes in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Oct 13: Drive to demolish unauthorised structures resumed here today.

Today 122 shops of Manik Mia shopping complex, 14 of Nalchity Complex and 26 of Darbhesh Shopping Complex were demolished by police at the instruction of the Khulna Development Authority and Railway authorities.

These shops were built by accomplices of Ershad Shikdar on illegally occupied railway land and without any KDA approved plan, said a source in the KMP.

Neither the KDA nor the Railway authorities could say when the demolition of all unauthorised structures of 'SMA Rob Shopping Mall' would be resumed.



A Pakistani soldier stands alert with his machine gun in front of the Punjab provincial assembly building in Lahore yesterday. The Army deployed troops at all the installations throughout the country after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was ousted in a coup.

World community

From page 1
any details on the army's plans.

Reaction
International Monetary Fund managing director Michel Camdessus said Pakistan will receive no further financial aid from the IMF until democracy is restored.

"We are in a situation which is not rare... where very serious political events occur, and friendly countries decide to suspend their assistance," Camdessus said in French radio.

"Since the IMF cannot carry on alone, aid is suspended," Camdessus said.

The European Union postponed indefinitely today's planned signing of an agreement on trade and political cooperation with Pakistan.

"The European Union profoundly deplores the developments in Pakistan and condemns the military coup," said a statement.

"I would expect that military regime to be suspended from the councils of the Commonwealth and I would expect that military regime to be urged by the rest of the Commonwealth to hurry up with the speedy restoration of democracy," Anyaoku said in a BBC radio interview.

Australia and Britain warned their citizens to be cautious about travel to Pakistan after the army took control of public buildings, airports, state broadcasting stations and the homes of government ministers.

World Bank President James Wolfensohn, visiting South Africa, said he was "alarmed" by the overthrow of civilian rule by the military. Government officials in the Philippines, Switzerland and Bangladesh voiced concern or regret.

SI of SB police mugged

By Staff Correspondent
A sub-inspector of the Special Branch of police yesterday became the victim of snatchers who shot the plain-clothed policeman and took away his motor cycle from city's Chamelbagh area yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Ziaul Huque, 30, a sub-inspector of Special Branch of Security Control section. Zia with bullet wounds in his left leg was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he was operated upon soon after admission.

Motijheel police arrested one person as a suspect in the incident. Police did not disclose the identity of the arrested one "for the sake of investigation" till last night.

Hospital sources said that the incident took place when Zia was going to his Malibagh office riding his motor cycle at about 3:15 pm.

The gang of about three muggers suddenly got down from a rickshaw, intercepted the bike of the policeman inside a lane at Chamelbagh and shot Zia in his left thigh and drove off on the motor cycle.

No case, however, was filed in this connection till the filing of this report last night.

ISLAMABAD, Oct 13: Pak ist army chief Gen Pervez Musharraf held talks with President Rafiq Tarar today in their first meeting since the military coup on Tuesday, state media said. No details were given, reports Reuters.

missing the democratically elected government," said an EU statement. "The EU urges the immediate return to a civilian government."

The United States wants to see "the earliest possible restoration of democracy in Pakistan," State Department spokesman James P Rubin said.

The coup would make it impossible for Washington "to carry on business as usual in Pakistan," he said.

That could indicate that President Bill Clinton will review his plan to visit Pakistan, India and Bangladesh early next year. The trip was postponed last year when New Delhi and Islamabad conducted underground nuclear tests.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called today for a return to democratic rule in Pakistan, warning that the coup there created a new level of uncertainty between it and India, the region's other emerging nuclear power.

NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana said international concern about the coup was heightened by the race between India and Pakistan to develop nuclear weapons.

150mw loadshedding in DESA areas

By Staff Correspondent
The city experienced severe loadshedding yesterday with many areas plunging into darkness for several hours at night.

Postagola, Gulshan, Dhanmondi, Tejgaon and Mirpur areas were the worst hit.

The areas covered by DESA — the city, Narayanganj and Narsingdi — had a power shortage of 150 MW yesterday against the requirement of 1000 MW, PDB sources said.

The main reason of loadshedding was shortage in power generation due to shut down of several units of the power plants at Rauzan and Ghorasol following mechanical trouble, the sources said.

Almost half of the total power generated in the country is supplied in DESA areas.



Preparations are almost complete for celebration of the Durga Puja, the greatest religious festival of the Hindus.

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No case, however, was filed in this connection till the filing of this report last night.

Sharjah Cup WI beat SL by 3 wkts

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 13: West Indies beat Sri Lanka by three wickets in the opening match of the Sharjah Cup cricket tournament today, reports Reuters.

Scores: Sri Lanka 178 all out in 49.3 overs, West Indies 181-7 in 49.2 overs.

Rajuk men

From page 1
about 2:30 pm.

According to the Rajuk official, that 'section of local people' had been opposing the project.

They attacked the Rajuk men with lathis, iron rods and sharp weapons that caused injuries to the nine men, who had to be admitted to DMCH.

Sanaul Huq, the SP of Narayanganj, told The Daily Star that he had heard about the incident, but could not give details.

Besides, the police official could not confirm whether anybody was arrested or any case was filed with police in connection with the incident till the filing of this report at 9 pm last night.

JCD continues strike at CU

From CU Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Oct 13: Classes and examinations were not held at the Chittagong University (CU) today, the first day of two-day strike called by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

The JCD called the strike as it was not allowed to hold its annual conference on the campus today.

Meanwhile, Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) enforced strike on the campus at all universities of the country today to press home its demands including resumption of bus service for the CU students.

During the strike, GCO brought out a silent procession on the campus but could not hold any meeting or rally as the university authorities imposed a ban on politics on the campus on October 8 after a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on October 7.

The JCD tried to hold a rally on the campus but failed to do so due to police action. Later they brought out a procession outside the campus and urged the students to make tomorrow's strike a success.

Jyoti Basu finally calling it a day?

From Pallab Bhattacharya
NEW DELHI, Oct 13: Is West Bengal Chief Minister and veteran Marxist leader Jyoti Basu finally calling it a day from politics?

His communist party of India (Marxist) added fuel to speculations on Basu's retirement when the party general secretary Harkishan Singh Surjeet said here yesterday evening that the West Bengal Chief Minister is 86 now and his health is not good and everyone has to call it a day at some point of time.

However, at the same time, Surjeet, two years younger than Basu, said the veteran leader from West Bengal would continue to serve the CPI (M) as long as he is alive.

Surjeet's remarks, far from clearing the air, have in fact contributed to further thickening of speculations about Basu's future.

Did Surjeet mean that Basu's retirement at this juncture was not in the interest of the party, especially at a time when it is facing mounting challenge from Trinamool Congress-BJP combine in West Bengal, as was clear from recent parliamentary elections?

Or was the CPI (M) general secretary not ruling out Basu calling it quits?

Only last week, Basu had told reporters here that he was keen on retiring because of his failing health and that he would press the issue at the party's central committee meeting here next month.

Basu restated his desire to retire when he said in Calcutta yesterday in reply to a question from newsmen on the issue that "why not? I am ageing, I am also not keeping well."

Even the strongest critics of Basu admit that few among CPI (M) leaders have the charismatic appeal that he has and his departure would create a void which will be difficult to fill.

The question now is who will succeed Basu?

When Basu himself was confronted with the question in Calcutta yesterday, his typical reply was "our party has a democratic structure. Whatever decision the party takes will be final."

The two names most widely touted around in political circles in West Bengal are West Bengal police (home) minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya or veteran CPI (M) parliament member Somnath Chatterjee.

Draft law of BHRC finalised with amendments

The Cabinet sub-committee at a meeting yesterday finalised the draft law of Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission (BHRC) with some amendments, reports UNB.

Chaired by Education Minister A S H Kadique, the meeting reviewed the process of formulating the human rights law and its different articles.

The draft law has been sent for the Cabinet's approval.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and law advisers to the commission were present at the meeting.

2 foreign ship collide at outer anchorage of Ctg Port

From Our Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Oct 13: Two foreign ships collided at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port this morning.

Port sources said, Greek vessel MV Marina collided with a Panamanian ship MV Tasmia at 7 am while entering the port from the lighthouse area.

MV Tasmia loaded with rotten rice remained anchored at the outer anchorage for three months following a court order. It was slightly damaged.

A ten-member committee has been formed to investigate the incident.

Sutrapur

From page 1
supporters thronged the place. They halted a passing police van and set it ablaze. They also beat up the driver of the van, constable Mustafa.

Police rushed to the spot and tried to disperse the mob. The mob became desperate and pelted stones and hurled bombs at the police. Police retaliated with tear gas shells and gunfire.

Witnesses said the clash continued about an hour creating panic in the area.

Officer-in-charge of Sutrapur thana Lokman Hossain told the news agency that Salauddin Bhuiyan was arrested along with an illegal firearm. He is an accused in 10 cases on various charges.

**Investment Corporation
of Bangladesh**
Head Office, Dhaka
**Notice of the Twenty Third
Annual Aeneral Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the Twenty Third Annual General Meeting of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) will be held on Thursday, the 4th November, 1999 at 3:00 PM at Hotel Purbani International Ltd., 1, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka to transact the following business:

- To place the minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting held on 21st October, 1998 for information;
- To receive and adopt the audited accounts of the Corporation for the year from 1st July 1998 to 30th June 1999 and report on the workings of the Corporation for the said year.
- To declare dividend;
- Any other business with the permission of the Chair.

By Order of the Board of Directors
Md. Fayekuzzaman
Secretary

Dated 11th October, 1999
Notes:

- The Register of Transfer of Shares of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh shall remain closed from the 25th October, 1999 to the 4th November, 1999 (both days inclusive);
- The instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing and in the case of an individual shareholder under the hand of the shareholder or his attorney authorized in this behalf by a Power of Attorney, and in the case of an institution under its Common Seal or under the hand of its Attorney authorised in this behalf;
- A proxy shall not be valid unless it is dated and properly stamped prior to its lodgment with the Corporation before 72 (Seventy-two) hours of the time fixed for the meeting;
- No person shall be appointed a proxy nor shall any person act as such, who is not a shareholder qualified to vote at the meeting in respect of which the proxy is given.

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