

# Man-made flood

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Congress, blamed his rival CPM leaders in West Bengal for the recent flood which, he said, claimed over 1,000 lives and affected more 25 million people in West Bengal.

West Bengal's Deputy Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya, talking to the Bangladesh delegation in Calcutta on October 14, called the flooding a natural calamity.

Panja said there was a similar flooding in 1977. Just six months before the election, and this time also flood took place six months before the polls.

He rejected the claim of the West Bengal government about heavy rain.

Panja said his Trinamul Congress has demanded early election in February instead of May.

Talking at length about some 'trifling' issues that pose as irritant to the Indo-Bangla relations, he said he has taken personal initiative for ratification to implement the Mujib-Indira agreement of 1974, border demarcation and solution to the enclaves problem.

He said the joint commission meeting must take place immediately so that all issues could be discussed and a peaceful solution found.

About Dhaka-Agartala bus service and rail communications between Bangladesh and West Bengal, Panja said the union government has agreed in principle on both the issues and is now awaiting a reply from the Bangladesh side.

Top priority has been given to these issues, he said, adding: 'We want to remove all barriers that come in the way of our friendly relations.'

Immediate solution to these

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## Japanese Embassy Minister calls on Mannan Bhuiyan

By Staff Correspondent

Newly appointed Minister at the Japanese Embassy Kyokazu OTA called on BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at his party central office yesterday morning.

They discussed various bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern. Among other issues, Bangladesh's current political situation was also discussed at the meeting, said a press release.

The Minister informed the BNP secretary general that Japan has always been considering Bangladesh as one of its development partner.

## Proshika provides Tk 2.58 cr more for flood victims

Proshika has provided an additional amount of Tk 2.58 crore for relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims of the southwestern districts of the country, reports BSS.

With this amount, Proshika's total assistance for flood-hit people rose to Tk 3.5 crore.

The additional amount of Tk 2.58 crore was sanctioned at an emergency meeting held at Proshika Bhawan yesterday with its president Dr Quazi Faruque Ahmed in the chair.

With this amount post-flood relief and rehabilitation activities would be conducted in 100 unions of the affected districts of the country. Under this programme, Taka 1.47 crore will be spent for relief distribution while Taka two crore and three lakh would be spent for post-flood rehabilitation.

Proshika is also providing medicare services to the needy people, treatment to the livestock, fodder for animals under its relief programmes.

Under the programme, Proshika is distributing foods among 3200 affected families of seven unions of Meherpur and seven unions of Ganai. Apart from its own activities in 30 unions, Proshika will provide financial help to 45 local NGOs to conduct post-relief rehabilitation activities.

In addition to relief operation, the flood-affected people would be provided with interest-free loan, seeds and other agricultural inputs. Besides, the damaged educational institutions will be reconstructed.

Damaged tubewells will also be repaired under this programme.

## JS body on fisheries ministry meet held

Parliamentary standing committee on fisheries and livestock ministry yesterday adopted a report of the number three sub-committee on the irregularity regarding the appointment of Director General of livestock directorate, reports BSS.

The committee in a meeting presided over by its chairman ASM Feroz also requested the ministry to take proper action on this matter.

The meeting directed the livestock and fisheries ministry to investigate and prepare a report on irregular promotion and wage of government's fund at the fourth fisheries project of fisheries directorate.

issues would help both countries to concentrate on economic development, he said.

About gas, he said the Indian market is ready to take gas from Bangladesh, whenever Bangladesh agrees.

He, however, denied an allegation that the gas issue would be tagged with other issues.

'We've great demand for gas in India, but we also want that Bangladesh should export gas after fulfilling its own demand,' he added.

Replying to a question, Panja said the present Indian government upholds the principle of secularism.

He said the government spent Rs 1,380 million for Hajj pilgrims.

This year, 1.20 lakh Muslims would go to Saudi Arabia to perform holy Hajj and of them, 90,000 would go under government arrangement.

Responding to another question, Panja said Bangladesh Prime Minister's remark in the UN Millennium Summit as regards military intervention was a bold one. 'India will never support grabbing of power in undemocratic way.'

About arrest of a killer of Bangabandhu reportedly hiding in India, he said he does not have any information, but added 'we will do everything, whatever Bangladesh wants in nabbing the killer of Mujib.'

Later in the afternoon, Water Resources Minister Arjun Charan Sheti told the Bangladesh journalists that the recent flood in Bangladesh was due to unprecedented rainfall within a short time. Similar type of flood took place in Orissa last year, he said.

About the Joint River Commission (JRC) meeting, he said it might take place in Dhaka in the first or second week of January next.

He said after the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty in 1996 everything was functioning smoothly.

The Indian Water Resources Minister said his country is ready and prepared to provide any type of assistance to Bangladesh for constructing the proposed Gan-

## Wahiduddin Mahmud hospitalised

Former Adviser of Caretaker Government and an eminent

economist of the country Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud, who was admitted to the Sikder Medical College Hospital here following a heart attack, last night, is now improving, family sources said yesterday reports BSS.

Prof. Mahmud suffered heart attack at his residence here last night and he was immediately rushed to the Sikder Medical College Hospital. He is now under the care of Dr. Shams Mahmud.

The family members of Prof. Mahmud on doctor's advice have requested all relations, well-wishers and admirers not to visit him at the hospital but to pray to the Almighty Allah for his early recovery.

## Swedish envoy calls on DU VC

Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Anders Johnson paid a courtesy call on Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interest, particularly the academic activities of Dhaka University and possibilities of exchange programmes and collaborative research programmes between Dhaka University and the universities in Sweden.

Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission in Dhaka Dr Anders Granlund was also present.

## JU employees' strike mars academic atmosphere

SAVAR, Oct 19: The on-going strike of the class three employees of Jahangirnagar University (JU) to press for time-scale and promotions has created a stalemate in the normal academic activities of the university ahead of upcoming first year honours admission tests and course final examinations of various departments, reports BSS.

The agitating employees today extended their sit-in demonstration programme till October 23 and have threatened stoppage of varsity transportation from October 24 if their demands are not met by then.

The varsity central library and seminar libraries remained closed for the strike causing serious disruptions of normal academic preparations of the students ahead of final examinations of various departments. The majority of departments have final examinations in November on their schedules.

The first year honours courses admission tests for the session 2000-2001 are also scheduled to begin on October 29.

Meanwhile, the university authorities have urged the striking employees to call off their programme and sit for negotiations acknowledging that their strike is hampering the normal academic and administrative functioning of the university, which is currently trying to reduce the session-jams.



The residence of Kamal Uddin Fakir, Vice President of Ward No 5 of Mirpur BNP, was ransacked early yesterday by miscreants allegedly backed by one Nannu, brother of Kochi, a local influential leader of the ruling Bangladesh Awami League.

## JS team leaves

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The parliamentary delegation will hold talks with the Indian water resources minister, said the sources and added that management of water in different rivers by various dams would feature in the talks.

Members of the standing committee and officials from the ministry and parliament secretary would be included in the delegation. But the water resources minister and the chairman of the standing committee may not accompany the delegation due to their involvement in other such talks in the United States, sources said.

The Water Development Board earlier submitted a report to the committee stating the partial losses and damages in the recent flooding. Floodwaters in the affected areas are receding, the WDB report said.

MA Baree of Awami League, Dr Habibur Rahman and Golam Mohammad of BNP and Sarfuddin Ahmed of Jatiya Party attended the meeting. Water Resources Ministry Secretary

Ruhul Amin and other high officials were present.

In another meeting, the Standing Committee on the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries asked the finance minister to disburse fresh loans among the flood victims in the affected areas.

The meeting also assured government support for rehabilitation and recouping losses by the prolonged flooding that swept the southwestern areas for the first time in last 100 years.

Chaired by A. S. M. Feroz, the meeting was attended, among others, by Sayed Rafiqul Haque, A K Fazul Haque, Begum Dilara Harun and Kamrun Nahar Patul of ruling AL, Mohammad Fazul Haque and Mohammad Shamsuzzoha Khan of BNP and Mozammel Hossain of JP.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in an interview with BBC on October 10 said that Bangladesh would soon discuss with India the current state of floods in its south-western region caused by man-made dams and barrages on rivers.

## Make SAARC vibrant

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the region. The main objectives of the conference are to examine the present shape of regional cooperation, look beyond SAARC at different levels including extra-regional, sub-regional and civil society levels and draw on the experiences of other regional groupings like the ASEAN and the EU.

German scholars expected to participate in the conference are Dr Wolfgang Zingel of the South-Asia Institute of Heidelberg University, Dr Hein Kießling of the Hans-Seidel-Foundation, Manfred Haack of Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation and Siegfried Herzog of Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation. The German Federal Office in Berlin will be represented by Ms Claudia Schütt. Head of the Delegation of European Union Ambassador Antonia

de Menzes and Charge d' Affaires of the French Embassy in Dhaka Jean-Guy de Wagny, representing the current EU Presidency, will make statements on the European experience in the fields of regional cooperation and integration.

Besides, a representative from the ASEAN will attend.

Representatives from all the SAARC countries will take part in the conference. Bhutan will be represented by its Ambassador in Dhaka Lhatu Wangchuk.

## Spl Myanmar envoy arrives today

Deputy Foreign Minister of Myanmar Khin Maung Win arrives in the city today on a two-day visit as the special envoy of Myanmar Prime Minister Than Shwe.

Foreign Office sources told BSS yesterday that Win will hold talks with Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and hand over a letter from the Myanmar Prime Minister during the visit. Win will depart on October 22.

## 3 Sharfuls

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ing overnight his argument contended that Moslem did not take part in the killing as he had no ambition or ill motive.

The counsel said none of the prosecution witnesses told of seeing Moslem at the place of occurrence. So, the question of his involvement in the killing does not arise, argued the lawyer.

Defence counsel appointed by the state for Major (dismissed) Mohiuddin and Captain (dismissed) Kismat Hashem failed to appear causing annoyance of the court.

Deputy Attorney General Shamsuddin Chowdhury told the court that advocate Khandokar Gulzar could not come due to illness while advocate Hafizur Rahman will appear when the hearing resumes Sunday.

## Khulna Madrassah

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He has purchased landed property in fictitious names and also in the names of his wife and ten children, Yusuf Sheikh mentioned in his petition.

Meanwhile, Khulna Zila Ainjibi Samity has demanded an impartial judicial inquiry into the corruption by the principal of Alia Madrassah.

## Khaleda

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The opposition leader said four-party alliance would protect the country and change the lot of common people establishing a patriotic government removing the 'failed, inefficient and subversive government.'

Hannu or Rashid, Ukul Abdus Sattar, Morshed Kamal and Abu Taher, among others, also addressed the meeting with Iqbal Chowdhury in the chair.

## FBCCI polls: SC upholds HC verdict

By SC Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday rejected a petition seeking stay of the FBCCI polls scheduled to be held tomorrow.

Judge Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury of the Appellate Division rejected the petition filed by Abul Khair Marsalin, President of Gaibandha Chamber of Commerce.

The petitioner challenged Tuesday's High Court verdict allowing the election of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

Barister Rokonuddin Mahmood appeared for the FBCCI while Barister Moudud Ahmed for the petitioner.

The SC verdict has removed the last hurdle to hold the elections of the vice-president and 15 members of the executive committee from the Association Group.

## One jailed for filing false case under PSA

By Court Correspondent

One Mohammad Tobarok Hossain, complainant of a case filed under the Public Safety Act (PSA) was awarded one year rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 1000 on charge of filing a false case against two policemen yesterday.

Judge, Mohammad Shah Newaz, the Special Tribunal for Prevention of Public Safety Disturbance and Crime found Tobarok guilty and gave the verdict.

The court also acquitted Sub-Inspector MA Fattah and Naik Tota Miah of the case as the allegations brought against them were not proved.

Tobarok filed a case with Motiheel thana accusing Sub-Inspector MA Fattah and Naik Tota Miah on charge of snatching away 2400 US dollars from him at Dilkusha under Motiheel thana on April 25 this year.

The investigation officer of the case submitted a charge sheet before the CMM's Court, Dhaka on May 31.

After cross-examination of all five prosecution witnesses, the court gave the judgement.

The two accused were produced in the court during the time of judgement while the complainant was not present in the court.

Special PP Abdullah Al-Mamun appeared for the state while Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman for the accused.

## Trial of film star Sohel murder begins Nov 20

By Court Correspondent

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday accepted the film star Sohel Chowdhury Murder Case for trial.

Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa fixed November 20 for appearance of all the accused in the case.

Sohel, a film star was shot dead by a group of assailants in front of the Tramps Club under Gulshan thana at about 8.00 pm on December 18, 1998.

Later a murder case was filed with Gulshan thana accusing 10 people including Aziz Mohammad Bhai and Banil Islam in this connection.

The investigation officer of the case submitted a charge sheet to the CMM's Court, Dhaka against the ten on July 27 last year.

The CMM's Court, Dhaka transferred the case to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka on September 24 for trial.

Victim Sohel's driver Mohammad Selim is still at large while nine other chargesheeted accused are now on bail.

The ill-fated microbus was hired from Narsingdi as the one started from 29 Minto Road went out of order when it reached Narsingdi. Ultimately seven of the journalists had to return from the midway without covering the public meeting of Khaleda.

## Mannan's men

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the growth and development of the bank, a SIBL press release said.

The board also decided to sit on October 25, the release added.

The BB on Wednesday 'technically removed' MA Manna from the Chairmanship of SIBL and ordered him to abstain from holding the post for his alleged involvement in 'activities harmful to the bank.'

## CBA makes NCBs

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and huge informal trade fuelled demand for korb market dealings in dollars in recent times.

During yesterday's lunch with the NCB chiefs, the governor asked the bankers to remain vigilant against frauds. He categorically mentioned that in recent times forgers withdrew Tk 1.40 crore by issuing 22 forged checks within a span of four days at a foreign bank.

The governor also pointed out that clients are often refused new bank notes from the banks as unscrupulous employees sell the notes at premium to outsiders.

He said such incidents would affect the confidence of depositors in banks and asked the bankers to quicken the process of remittance to thwart korb market operations.

# Slums termed 'atom bomb'

By Staff Correspondent

A UNICEF official said yesterday that unabated mushrooming of slums would lead to less governance and more violence in the urban areas.

Speaking at a seminar on adolescent development at the Institute of Child and Mother Care (ICMC), Jun Kukita, a senior programme co-ordinator of UNICEF, said that burgeoning slums in the city are like 'atom bombs' that can go off any moment. The problem, he said, should be addressed before it assumes threatening proportions.

'The problem lies in the absence of proper urban policies,' Kukita said. 'While economic indicators show progress, social indicators don't.'

Social indicator still reads better in the rural areas, although the people there are not better off economically, he added. Job opportunities lure adolescent girls from rural areas into migrating to urban centres, the UNICEF official noted. But, once in the city, they get poor sanitation facilities and abysmal reproductive healthcare.

In many cases, other participants at the UNICEF-sponsored seminar observed, social insecurity and violence in the urban neighbourhoods force even the well-educated and conscious parents to marry off their daughters under-aged.

In rural areas, adolescent girls, aged between 10 and 19 years and of economically vulnerable family background, have no options left but to get married,

they noted. UNICEF, the seminar was told, has plans to take up programme aimed at sensitising people about ill effects of early marriage.

Dr Brian K Barber, a visiting psychologist from the University of Utah, and Dr Khurshid Talukder, an assistant professor of ICMH, also spoke at the seminar, chaired by ICMH Director Professor MGK Talukder. Dr Sameena Chowdhury of ICMH delivered the welcome address.

Dr Barber, who has carried out special behavioural study on adolescents from Bosnia to the Gaza Strip, observed that young people having strong bondage with parents, family and good peer groups are less vulnerable to go astray.

He cited example of Gaza where Palestinian youths who had maintained good contact with their parents throughout Intifada struggle became less prone to anti-social activities in comparison to the ones who had lost contact with their families.

Dr Khurshid Talukder presented a series of findings during a series of interviews with a group of adolescents in a certain area in Narayanganj recently.

The interviewees, Dr Khurshid said, were unanimous a few issues. They want parental guidance, love and affection, and, most importantly, education, he added.

Whether exposure to information technology and satellite television has adverse impact on the adolescents or not was also discussed at the seminar.

# Edn board strike

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This correspondent found that the striking employees were demonstrating near in front of the Dhaka board office yesterday to press their demands. All the gates and office rooms were found under lock and key.

The BIEBEF brought out processions and held a rally near the main gate of the board office yesterday, demanding immediate implementation of its demands.

Addressing the rally, its leaders said they would continue the strike till their demands were met.

When contacted, Secretary General of BIEBEF Syed Mokbul Ahmed said they were waiting for an 'initiative' from the education

ministry or the authorities of the board. 'We will go back to our duty if the education minister or the chairman of the boards consider our demands and assure that those would be met.'

Replying to a question, he said that preparations for the forthcoming SSC and Madrasah examinations were being affected due to the strike.

The BIEBEF had gone for another indefinite strike in all the eight boards in August but later withdrew it following discussion with the authorities of boards.

A meeting between the Dhaka Board chairman Dr ATM Sharifullah and the BIEBEF leaders was scheduled for last night.

# NSC prolongs BNP's wait

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depends on 'high level government decision.' He however added a decision is likely on Sunday.

The NSC official further said Bangladesh Cricket Board has already taken permission from the authorities to use Bangabandhu National Stadium and its adjoining areas for Bangladesh-India Cricket Test beginning on November 10. This is why NSC is hesitating to allow BNP to use Paltan Maidan on November 7.

Another official said, 'It is not possible for the NSC to give permission to BNP without a government decision in this regard.'

Meanwhile, the ruling Awami League is planning a 'grand' showdown at Paltan Maidan on November 3 to mark the Jail Killing Day. AL sources said the party would definitely hold its meeting at Paltan Maidan on the day.

When contacted, a senior BNP leader said they hope to get permission to use Paltan Maidan on November 7.

He said the party has not yet decided its next step if permission is not given. Senior leaders would soon discuss the matter.

'We must take tough stand if the government does not allow BNP to hold its grand meeting,' he added.

BNP is yet to chalk out its countrywide programme on the occasion of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

In reply to a question, the leader said BNP has not taken any decision so far whether it would organise the November 7 programme alone or with the alliance components. 'The component parties are interested to hold the programme jointly but there is a strong opposition to this within BNP.'

He further said 'majority' of the party men feel that BNP should organise the programme although the alliance partners believe in the spirit of National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

Some BNP leaders argued that if Jatiya party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote leaders believe in the spirit of November 7, they should visit the mazar of president Ziaur Rahman on his birth and death anniversaries and on other national occasions.

'We can go for joint programme with them on november 7 if they agree to do so,' one leader said.



## অগ্রণী ব্যাংক

জনসংযোগ বিভাগ  
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা

## ২০০১ইং সনের ক্যালেন্ডার ও নোটবুক-কাম টেলিফোন ইনডেক্স সরবরাহের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের জন্য ২০০১ইং সনের জন্য সাধারণ ও উন্নতমানের ক্যালেন্ডার এবং নোট বুক-কাম-টেলিফোন ইনডেক্স মুদ্রণ ও সরবরাহের উদ্দেশ্যে সুশিক্ষিত প্রিন্টিং/ গ্রাফোলোজিস্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্র অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের প্রধান কার্যালয়ের জনসংযোগ বিভাগ কর্তৃক সরবরাহকৃত নির্ধারিত সিডিউল মোতাবেক দাখিল করতে হবে। সিডিউল আগামী ২৯/১০/২০০০ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত (ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ক্যালেন্ডারের জন্য (অফেরৎযোগ্য) ৫০০/- (পাঁচ শত টাকা মাত্র) টাকা এবং নোট বুক-কাম-টেলিফোন ইনডেক্সের জন্য (অফেরৎযোগ্য) ২০০/- (দুই শত টাকা মাত্র) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ডিডি সহ আবেদনের মাধ্যমে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। পে-অর্ডার/ডিডি অগ্রণী ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা-এর অনুকূলে হতে হবে। ক্যালেন্ডার ও নোট বুক-কাম-টেলিফোন ইনডেক্স -এর জন্য অগ্রণী দরপত্র দাখিলের দরপত্রসমূহ পৃথক পৃথকভাবে সীলগালকৃত খামের উপর ক্যালেন্ডারের দরপত্র এবং নোটবুকের দরপত্র উভয়সহ নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিসে (৫ম তলায়) রক্ষিত সীলগালাবদ্ধ টেন্ডার বাস্তবে আগামী ২৯/১০/২০০০ইং তারিখ বেলা ২.০০টা পর্যন্ত দাখিল করতে পারবেন। একই দিনে বেলা ৩.৩০মিনিট সময় টেন্ডারদাতাদের সামনে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন)দরপত্র সমূহ খোলা হবে।

মাসুদ আলম খান  
উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক