



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia distributes relief materials among the flood-affected people at Jatrabari and Demra yesterday.

'Bangladesh, India, Pakistan should resolve water issue'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent Pakistani defence expert and columnist Ikram Sehgal yesterday said Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are not likely to be frozen out of India-Pakistan talks in the very interest of the South Asian giants.

He said both Bangladesh and Pakistan have a common issue of concern with India -- water. This issue needs to be resolved soon as the conventional wars of the next century are likely to be fought over sharing of waters, he added.

Sehgal, also a contributor to The Daily Star, was delivering a lecture on 'Indo-Pak dialogues and its regional impact' in the city, organised by the Council for National Agenda.

He felt that all positive dialogues should focus on the trust between India and Pakistan and the leaders should emphasise the positives over the negatives.

Sehgal also criticised the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) for not incorporating provisions for bilateral dia-



Ikram Sehgal

logue between the member countries.

Initiating constructive dialogues at Saarc summits would lay the foundations for a more peaceful region, which would act as the catalyst for development and prosperity, he said.

Free trade among the South Asian nations would also be helpful in building prosperity, Sehgal said.

World leaders concerned over flood situation

UNB, Dhaka

Presidents and heads of government of different countries expressed concern over the recent flood situation in Bangladesh.

In separate messages to the President Iajuddin Ahmed, President of Turkey Ahmet Needet Sezer, President of Sri Lanka Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumeratunga and President of the Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom said the people of the friendly countries were beside the government and people of Bangladesh in their difficult time of natural disaster.

They conveyed deep sympathy to the flood affected people.

NCC Bank donates Tk 40 lakh

National Credit and Commerce (NCC) Bank Ltd has donated Tk 40 lakh to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for flood victims, says a press release.

Chairman of the bank Principal M Wazhiullah Bhuiyan handed over a cheque for the amount to the prime minister recently.

The bank will also distribute another Tk 10 lakh among the flood victims directly.

Earlier, the Board of Directors of NCC Bank allocated Tk 50 lakh for flood affected people.

Writ of 10 terminated BB staffs dismissed

BSS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday dismissed the writ petition filed by 10 terminated officers and staff of Bangladesh Bank.

The court discharged the rule issued earlier with the observation that the petitioners are at liberty to seek remedy in the Administrative Tribunal within four weeks from the date of the order of this court.

A division bench comprising Justice Mohammad Abdul Matin and Justice Tariqul Hakim delivered the judgement after hearing the writ

petition.

Bangladesh Bank terminated the services of 10 officers and staff on October 30 last year for their alleged unlawful activities within the premises of the head office of the central bank.

They challenged the termination order before the High Court.

Barrister Abdur Razzak assisted by Advocate Mohammed Hossain Lipu appeared before the court on behalf of the petitioners while AF Hasan Arif and Dr M Zahir stood for the respondents.

BOOK PIRACY

Prof Azad files fraud case against press owner

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Eminent writer Prof Humayun Azad yesterday filed a fraud case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, against a printing press owner who pirated his novel 'Paksar Zamin Sadsad'.

After a hearing, Magistrate Emdadul Haq took the case into cognizance and issued a warrant of arrest for Mohammad Iqbal Hossain, proprietor of MS Press at Sutrapur.

In his complaint, Prof Azad said the Agami Publisher published his novel last year and it became instant best-seller. But few months later, some unscrupulous businessmen pirated his novel, which caused a great loss to the writer and the publisher.

The writer also said when his publisher Osman Gani found out that the MS Press was printing his book illegally, he made an attempt to hand over its owner Iqbal Hossain to the police.

But Iqbal then assured the Agami of not copying the book any longer and promised to pay Tk one lakh to the writer in compensation and gave an affidavit on a non-judicial stamp, Azad said in his complaint.

At the same time, Iqbal also issued three cheques for the same amount, but the cheques were dishonoured by

the bank, he added.

Later, Prof Azad issued a legal notice on Iqbal who refused to pay the money, the complainant alleged.

Advocate Ayet Ali Patwary appeared on behalf of the writer.

Hasina visits ailing Santosh Gupta at Birdem

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited noted journalist-columnist Santosh Gupta who lies in coma in the city's Birdem Hospital following cerebral haemorrhage.

Hasina lamented that the inks that ink the spirit of the liberation were getting exhausted gradually.

The AL chief also visited Hafizur Rahman Liku, a leader of party's Gopalganj unit, at Pongu Hospital. Liku was admitted to the hospital with severe injury in terrorist attack.

"The four-party alliance government is killing Awami League leaders and workers in a preplanned way to destroy the party," she said.

Ensure proper distribution of relief materials: Saifur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday asked the government officials to ensure proper distribution of relief among the flood-affected people.

The government has sanctioned adequate relief materials and there would be no scarcity of relief, he said at a review meeting on the relief and rehabilitation activities at Sylhet Circuit House.

The minister also asked the officials to take part in the post-flood rehabilitation programme with a team spirit for the greater national interest.

Divisional Commissioner Abdus

Salam Khan chaired the meeting attended by officials of different departments.

The finance minister said the current flooding has caused more damage to Sylhet division than in 1988.

An assessment of the extent of damage to schools, colleges, bridges and roads was now being carried out, he said.

The government would start an extensive post-flood rehabilitation programme soon after the assessment of the damage, he added.

Saifur also underscored the need for devising new ways of facing the floods.

He said multi-storied flood shelters would be built in the flood-prone areas,

with provision for using these as educational institutions during normal period.

Later, the minister formally inaugurated the development work on the Chouhatta-Rikabibazar-Circuit House Road.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion, the minister called on the political leaders to rise above the partisan interests for the cause of development.

Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed, also president of Sylhet city Awami League, presided over the ceremony.

He sought continued cooperation from the minister for the development of Sylhet City Corporation.

UN instt alumni assoc executives

Dr M Enamul Huq and Khondaker Showkat Hossain have been elected president and general secretary of the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute (UNAFEI) Alumni Association, Bangladesh for 2004-06, says a press release.

Other office-bearers are Salma Choudhury -- vice president, AK Nazmuzzaman and Md Hemayetuddin -- joint secretaries, and Md Siddiqur Rahman -- treasurer.

The members are ZA Shamsul Huq, Nirmalendu Roy, Md Nasim, Muzibur Rahman Mia, Ikredar Ahmed, Abdul Wahab Sarker, Abdur Rahman, Nadira Tabbassum and Md Alauddin.

The new executive committee was elected at the annual general meeting of the association at the Police Telecom Auditorium in the city on July 28.

Ruti making programme

BSS, Dhaka

Mahanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee and Bangladesh Puja Parishad jointly continued its 'ruti' (home-made bread) making programme for the flood-hit people on the second day yesterday at Dhakeswari National Temple here.

Mahanagar Puja Committee women leaders Sabitri Bhattacharya, Manju Dhar, Bina Rani Saha, Shila Sen, Monika Bhowmik, Padmabati Debnath, Rina Ghosh, Bina Bhowmik, Swapna Paul, Sheuli Bhowmik Ratna, Bibha Dhar and Arati Barai, among others, took part in making the 2,000 pieces of rutis.

The Puja Committee will distribute relief materials at Keraniganj today.



Police intercept a procession of Awami Sangskritik Forum in front of the Paltan police box yesterday. The demonstrators demanded execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu murder case.

1,161 more held, 16 arms seized

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested some 1,161 people on various charges during their country-wide drive in last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

The law enforcers also recovered 16 firearms, four other weapons and 44 bullets and filed 10 cases against 15 people under the Arms Act.

Award giving ceremony
The distribution ceremony of 'Local Government Affairs Journalism Award 2003', organised by Bangladesh Centre for 'Development, Journalism and Communication', will be held with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11.00am.

Meditation. Venue: 1/1, Pioneer Road, Kakrail. Time: 5.15pm.

Seminar
YKK Bangladesh PTE Ltd will hold its global marketing seminar. Venue: Hotel Sarina, Banani. Time: 6.00pm.

Orientation programme
Mass-Line Media Centre organises an orientation programme for journalists from print and electronic media on 'Education for All'. Venue: 5/14 Humayun Road, Mohammadpur. Time: 10.00am.

Film show
Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Iris' (2002). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

ICU inauguration
An Intensive Care Unit (ICU) will be inaugurated at Ibne Sina Hospital with City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: House-68, Road-15/A, Dhanmondi. Time: 12.15pm.

Lecture
Yoga Foundation will hold an introductory lecture on Quantum Method

Law conference
The inaugural session of a regional conference on Legal Aid in Bangladesh, organised jointly by the law ministry and the Canadian International Development Agency, will be held with Chief Justice Syed J R Mudassir Husain as chief guest. Venue: IDB Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 9.30am.

Cultural function
The annual cultural function of Salvation International School and College will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium. Time: 4.30pm.

Film show
Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Dev' (2004), and a British film titled 'Troy' (2004). Venue: Society Auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.