

# Saifur warns of inflated flood loss estimate fallout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Exaggerated flood-damage estimate will only dent Bangladesh's image and put brakes on foreign investment, Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman said yesterday.

"We need to be careful about estimation and should not come up with an assessment figures based on guess-work," Saifur told reporters after a meeting with Executive Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) BP Misra.

"No estimation should be done that

may leave an adverse impact on foreign investors. We will seek help from the international community for post-flood rehabilitation after making a plausible damage assessment."

Misra said Bangladesh should adopt measures for a permanent solution to the flooding, including structural reforms, as it is a regular phenomenon.

Saifur said the government would attach priority to building schools, roads and culverts and other infrastructure in such a way that they are left unscathed by the floods.

## PM launches

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Jibikayan Programme" (char livelihood programme) at Bogra Rural Development Academy.

The Tk 500crore project will be implemented in 149 unions of 28 upazilas of Bogra, Sirajganj, Jamalpur and Kurigram districts aimed at reducing poverty of the char people living in the programme areas by 50 percent in eight years.

The Ministry for Local Government, Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives will implement the programme in two phases by 2011 with financial and technical assistance of the Department for International Development (DFID), UK.

"Successful implementation of the programme will make the char people economically self-reliant," Khaleda hoped and urged all concerned to work hard with sincerity and devotion to make the venture a success.

She said direct participation of the char people will be ensured in the Programme.

"These people will have improved access to education, health, housing, safe drinking water and sanitation services through this programme," said the prime minister.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, State Minister of the ministry Ziaul Haq Zia, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Chowdhury, local MP Golam Mohammad Siraj and Secretary of LGRD Division M Hedayetul Islam also addressed the function.

Ministers, MPs, representatives of development agencies and chairmen of the union councils of the programme areas attended the function.

"Poor char people, both men and women, of the programme areas will receive training for income-generating activities and new technologies in farm and non-farm sectors," she said, adding that credit facilities would be available for

self-employment of the trained persons.

She said about 5 percent of the total population living in char areas are underprivileged and backward. They are deprived of equal facilities rendered by several service agencies and NGOs, she added.

The prime minister said implementation of the programme would make their links with the mainland easier with the development of roads, ferry ghats and water communication system.

Referring to this year's devastating floods, the prime minister said the government has taken up a massive rehabilitation programme along with relief activities to overcome the havoc caused by the calamity.

SYLHET BOMB BLASTS

## Nunu sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A magistrate's court in Sylhet yesterday sent SM Nunu Miah to jail after he was arrested in connection with twin cinema blasts and a grenade attack near an Awami League (AL) meeting venue.

The police have so far concentrated on the interrogation of Nunu, also a Sylhet AL leader, arrested after the twin cinema blasts on August 5.

Nunu was brought back to Sylhet Tuesday night after he faced interrogation by the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) in Dhaka.

As the investigators from different agencies, including the Criminal Investigation Department, failed to get any clue from Nunu, he was sent to Dhaka on August 13 for rigorous interrogation.

Earlier, Sylhet Kotwali police quizzed him after he was taken on remand for three days, sources said.

## First athletics gold

**FROM PAGE 1**  
European title, she has consistently struggled to find her form in major finals.

She was among the favourites for last year's World Championships in Paris but finished fourth.

Cumba, the Ibero-American champion, leaped from sixth to second with her final throw.

Cumba said: "I am so excited I can hardly speak. This year is my year."

Kleinart shed tears of joy despite being pushed down the medal podium by Cumba's last-gasp effort.

Tears of a different kind gushed down the face of the fifth-placed Belarus athlete Nadezhda Ostapchuk, whose 19.69m in the morning's qualifying session would have won her the silver medal.

In the final, Ostapchuk could only manage 19.01m.

The shot put has a controversial record in terms of doping.

Khorzhanenko was disqualified from the 1999 World Indoor Championships after testing positive for drugs. Yanina Korolchik of Belarus,

the Olympic champion in this event four years ago in Sydney, was not able to defend her title because she is serving a ban after testing positive for a banned steroid last November.

The Russian's victory came on the day that Greece's Olympic 200m champion from the 2000 Games, Kostadinis Kenteris, and women's 100m silver medalist Ekaterini Thanou withdrew from the Athens Games after missing a mandatory drugs test last week.

Khorzhanenko will go into the record books as the first woman champion at the site of the ancient Games.

Women were forbidden from participating in the ancient Games, on pain of death, although there are several stories of women competing disguised as men.

The ancient Games were staged from 776 BC to 393 AD, when the Roman emperor Theodosius I ordered them to be stopped because he was a Christian and considered them to be a pagan festival.

## Ancient city discovered

**FROM PAGE 12**  
In Peru's northern rain forest and following up on years of investigation about a possible lost metropolis in the region.

The stone city, made up of five citadels at 9,186 feet above sea level, stretches over around 39 square miles and contains walls covered in carvings and figure paintings, exploration leader Sean Savoy told Reuters.

"It is a tremendous city... containing areas with stone etchings and 10-meter (33-foot) high walls," said Savoy, who had to hack through trees and thick foliage to finally reach the site on Aug. 15.

Covered in matted tree branches and interspersed with lakes and waterfalls, the settlement sites also contain well-preserved graveyards with mummies with teeth "in almost perfect condition," Savoy said.

Replete with stone agricultural terraces and water canals, the city complex is thought to have been home to the little-known Chachapoyas culture.

According to early accounts by Spanish conquistadors who arrived in Peru in the early 1500s, the Chachapoyas were a fair-skinned warrior tribe famous for their tall stat-

ure. Today they are known for the giant burial coffins sculpted into human figures found in the northern jungle region.

Savoy said his team also found an Inca settlement within the city complex that could prove theories the Chachapoyas were conquered by the Incas, who ruled an area stretching from Ecuador to northern Chile between 1300 and 1500.

Savoy, a Peruvian-American, accompanied on the expedition by his US father, Gene Savoy, named the site Gran Saposoa after the nearby village Saposoa and his team has already mapped the area with preliminary drawings.

The discovery is the third notable ruin Gene Savoy has helped uncover in Peru. In 1964, Savoy found the site of the Incas' last refuge in the Cuzco region of southern Peru. A year later he took part in the discovery of the sacred city of Gran Pajaten in northern Peru.

American Hiram Bingham made Peru's most famous archeological discovery -- the fabled Inca ruins of Machu Picchu near Cuzco -- in 1911. Machu Picchu today attracts almost half a million tourists every year and is South America's best known archeological site.

## Trader abducted in Chuadanga, another freed in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Operatives of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) yesterday abducted a cotton trader from Alamdanga in Chuadanga, while a fabric trader bought his freedom in Kushtia on Tuesday.

A PBCP gang stormed the house of Kutub Ali in Belgachhi village at about 5:00am and took him away at gun-point. The gang asked his son Soheli Uddin to pay Tk 2 lakh in ransom for his release, sources said.

In Kushtia, fabric trader Abdul Wahab was freed near Bitipara Bazaar in Sadar upazila at about 9:00pm after his family paid the captors a ransom of Tk 60,000, family members said.

Local extortionists kidnapped Wahab from Harinarayanpur Bazaar on August 9 as he refused to pay them Tk 35,000 in toll.

Wahab's family refused to disclose the names of the captors. "They will kill us if we disclose their names," a relative of Wahab said.

Local police, however, denied any ransom for Wahab's freedom.

As many as 90 people including 36 school and college students were abducted in Kushtia in the last seven months. Of them, seven including two schoolboys were killed, 11 are still missing and the rest bought their freedom.

## 2 killed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A grocer and a teenage boy were murdered in separate incidents in Badda and Khilgaon, while unnamed attackers stabbed a journalist in Motijheel yesterday.

Badda police retrieved the body of grocery shop owner Abdul Aziz, 30, from a road near Anandnagar powerhouse at around 9:30am. The body had stains in the neck and cuts in the hand and chest, sources said.

The victim's cousin Jewel alleged Aziz's friends strangled him.

They called the grocer out of his Anandnagar house at 1:30am yesterday and he did not return home since then.

Khilgaon police found the decomposed body of an unidentified boy, aged about 13, abandoned on a road near a slum at about 9:30am, hospital sources said.

The body, which bore head injuries, was stuffed in a gunnysack. Police suspect criminals might have strangled him.

A gang of six youths stabbed Abul Hossain, 44, executive editor of weekly Agrabami, near Khilgaon rail crossing at around 8:00am.

Abul said he walked up to the rail crossing from his Sipahibagh home and boarded a rickshaw.

"Soon after I got on the rickshaw, a gang encircled me and started stabbing me indiscriminately," he added.

He ran away from the gang and took shelter in a nearby house. The owner of the house rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with seven stabs in the hand and chest.

## Moudud regrets

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The statement came after the Supreme Court on Tuesday took the government to task for failing to specify the time it needs to fully comply with the court directives for judiciary separation.

The government has been given 18 extensions to complete the process since the court issued the directives in December 1999.

Moudud said the government alone cannot complete the work and needs cooperation from the court.

## WB threatens

FROM PAGE 1

Iqbal Hassan Mahmud, the country director of the Asian Development Bank, head of UK's Department for International Development and ambassadors of Germany, Japan and Norway.

The WB letter referred to the press reports indicating a decision to re-tender the project and asked for a clarification and urgent reconsideration of the government position on the re-tendering of the project, if the press reports are accurate.

Mahmud however told The Daily Star yesterday that he did not know any such letter of the World Bank. He said the Power Cell of the Ministry of Power has been tasked with completing the re-tender process in line with the Independent Power Producer (IPP) regulations.

The Power Cell has already issued pre-qualification notice for selecting a private partner for the project, the minister added. Officials at the Power Cell said they received a letter from the ministry on August 4 asking the cell to initiate the re-tender process.

The decision to re-tender the project is delaying its implementation, but the minister said, "We'll try to implement the project as quickly as possible by conforming to all government rules and regulations." He was hopeful of selecting a private partner by the end of the year.

A high official of the Summit Group said the government last month informed them of the cancellation of the earlier tender without citing the reasons. He also said they are yet to take a decision about whether to make a fresh bid for the power project.

# Cops club police job-seekers

## Allege examinees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some applicants seeking sub-inspector posts yesterday alleged police authority illegally restrained them from taking part in a physical examination and demanded cancellation of the test.

Around 100 candidates in two separate press releases alleged police clubbed thousands of candidates without any reason and drove them out of the Armed Police Battalion (APB) police lines, Dhaka Range, examination centre in Uttara.

The applicants said some 3,000 candidates turned up at the centre before 9:00am yesterday but the authority closed the entrance before scheduled time. "As we demanded an explanation, police beat up and threatened us with arrest," said a press release.

As the candidates demanded to attend the examination and protested the baton charge, police again clubbed to disperse them.

The candidates later gathered in front of National Press Club with placards and festoons to protest the incident but police charged baton and snatched away the placards from them, the press releases claimed.

The assistant commissioner of police (Uttara) said the entrance was closed in time and denied charging truncheon on any candidate. Those who came late and were creating chaos were not allowed to enter, he added.

The candidates also demanded punishment to those responsible for beating up them.

## Dhaka may ask Delhi

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Bangkok last month. Shamsher said any timeframe was yet to be set for either sending the proposal or holding a dialogue between the two countries, but Dhaka would look into opportunities for future high-level talks at various forums or on the sidelines of summits.

The top diplomat hoped that all other outstanding border issues, such as porous borders in inaccessible areas, maritime border demarcation, trespassing and construction of barbed-wire fence by the Indian side would be addressed simultaneously.

Delhi has repeatedly said it will ratify the 1974 agreement only after finalising the demarcation that could be done in discussions between the two countries.

Most of the unresolved border issues centre around the non-implementation of the Mujib-Indira agreement of 1974, ratified by Dhaka on November 9, 1974.

The 1974 agreement can only come into effect after both parties exchange the instrument of ratification.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan

chaired the meeting, also attended by Home Minister Lutfuzzaman Babar, Home Secretary Omar Farooq and BDR Director General Jahangir Alam Chowdhury.

The undemarcated 6.5 stretch of the 4,096 km borders with India runs along Muhurichar in Feni.

## Dedicated probe

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proportion come down to 1:10. It is needed to make the department more efficient," he added.

Babar said the government has already approved fresh recruitment of 1,200 sub-inspectors against the demanded number of 1,800 officials.

"We have also planned to promote skilled and efficient police personnel to sub-inspector," he said.

On separate investigation units at police stations, the state minister said the authorities would start setting up the specialised units immediately after recruitment is complete.

## Body vows to thwart

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front of the Ahmadiyya complex on that day.

"Religious bigots will have to pass over our dead bodies if they try besiege the Ahmadiyya complex," General Secretary of the SAPUFC Shahriar Kabir said at a roundtable on 'Attack on religious minority and our responsibility' held the Jatiya Press Club.

The government alone will have to bear the responsibility if religious bigots to go on with their offensive programme on August 27, he said.

"Religious and ethnic minorities in the country are under threat of extinction and passing their days in insecurity due to the government's repressive attitude towards them," Shahriar alleged.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice KM Sobhan said the government itself is violating human rights and is also encouraging others to follow its path.

Article 40 of the constitution guarantees the right to exercise religious belief independently but the government has failed to uphold this right, he said.

Prof Mir Mobasser Ali said religious bigots would even seek a change in the country's constitution to declare the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslim. No Muslim country has done this, he mentioned.

"They (religious fanatics) had requested the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Conference) to adopt a resolution to declare the Ahmadiyya as non-Muslim but the OIC did not pay heed to their demand," Mobasser Ali told the roundtable.

President of the SAPUFC Prof

Kabir Chowdhury said all progressive political parties should come forward to make its August 27 programme a success.

A group of people in the name of religion has become active to take the country to backward, he said.

The roundtable was also addressed by journalist KG Mustafa, General Secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous People's Forum Sanjib Drong, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Prof Nim Chandra Bhoumik, Abu Osman Chowdhury and former ambassador Waliur Rahman.

Meanwhile, different rights bodies and social organisations have served legal notice on the secretaries of the home ministry and religious affairs ministry and the inspector general of police, demanding arrest and punishment of Khatme Nabuwat leaders for planned attack on Ahmadiyya mosques.

The organisations including Ain o Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Legal Aid And Services Trust, Jatiyo Ainjibi Parishad, Kormojibi Nari, Mahila Parishad, Naripokkha, Nijera Kori and Sammilita Samajik Andolon also served legal notice on the deputy commissioners of Dhaka and Khulna.

They demanded immediate steps to protect the religious rights of the Ahmadiyyas and punishment of those responsible for violating their rights.

Khatme Nabuwat defiled of Ahmadiyya mosque in Khulna in presence of police and threatened to besiege the Ahmadiyya complex at Bakshibazar in Dhaka, said a press release quoting legal notice.

## DUTA deposits fund

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they would not be able to manage funds for sending back the body to Bangladesh.

DUTA President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, accompanied by Azad's wife Latifa Kohinoro and the owner of Agami Prakashani, Osman Gani, deposited the money with German Charge d' Affaires Hermann Nicolai at the latter's office in the capital.

Prof Siddique said the German envoy assured them of every co-operation in bringing back the body of the eminent writer and linguist as early as possible.

The DU authorities, on the other hand, sent a letter to the foreign secretary yesterday requesting him to take all necessary steps to bring back the body, and said they would bear all the expenses for this.

DU Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof SMA Faiz in a telephone call yesterday also assured Azad's family of bringing back his body as early as possible and to pay back the money the DUTA had submitted to the German embassy.

The DU VC claimed to The Daily

Star, "I have told the DUTA president and general secretary three days ago that the university will bear the expenses for bringing Prof Azad's body home."

Quoting the foreign secretary, Prof Faiz said euro 4,000 would be needed to bring the body back home.

On whether the body will arrive today, the DUTA president said it now depends on the Bangladesh embassy in Germany.

"We have provided the money and are now trying to know whether the body would come today or not," Prof Siddique said, adding, "Seeing the body was not being flown home due to lack of fund, we have arranged the money. Although, we think the fund should have been arranged much earlier."

Informed sources said it would not be possible to bring the body back today as the Frankfurt Airport authorities requires to keep it for 24 hours at the airport for carrying out another test to ascertain the cause of the death. The body could be expected in Dhaka by Thursday next.

## Drug-peddlers stab 3 cops in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Three constables of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) were stabbed, one of them critically, by drug peddlers in Andharpukur of Paba upazila Tuesday night.

Critically injured, Abdul Halim is receiving treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, while Abul Bashar and Abdus Salam were given first aid.

The incident happened 2km off the jurisdiction of Keshabpur police outpost under Rajpara Police Station. Andharpukur, according to locals, is an emergency drug zone.

Outpost in-charge ASI Rafiq told reporters that constables Salam, Halim and Bashar caused about 10 drug peddlers and charged a 12-year-old drug seller. But the drug peddlers led by Rafiq and Laltu attacked and hurt them, he added.

Locals alleged law enforcers regularly collect toll from the drug peddlers of the area and the constables were stabbed as they took away several bottles of banned Indian phensidyl from the criminals and caught one's child.

RMP Deputy Commissioner Rawshan Ara said they are probing the incident.

## Medicine trader Stabbed, shot dead in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Unknown assailants stabbed and shot a medicine trader dead in Bahoderhat in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

Shaful Azam, 26, one of the owners of medicine shop Messers Jamuna Pharmacy at Haq Market in Bahoderhat under Chandgaon Police Station, was at his shop when about six armed men swooped on him at around midnight, witnesses said.

They accused him of giving them wrong medicine and of charging higher prices and stabbed and shot him.

Shaful was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he died at around 6:00am yesterday.

Local businesspersons barricaded some of the city roads and kept the shutters of their stores closed until yesterday noon. They also brought out a rally at Bahoderhat intersection in the morning and demanded arrest of the killers within 24 hours. Otherwise, they threatened to go for tougher programmes.

## Akbar orders

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The team visited the spot and informed the minister that illegal brick kilns encroaching on the river mainly caused the erosion at Basila. Strong current of the river already devoured more than 14 houses, including a four-storied building, in the last three days.

The brick kilns have shrunk the Turag obstructing its normal flow. Consequently, fierce current is hitting Basila, the experts said.

They told the minister the owners of the brick kilns also made an embankment beside the kilns, affecting the normal river flow.

The minister also asked the Water Development Board to bring Basila inside the Dhaka flood protection embankment.

The minister directed all concerned not to build any structure within 50 metres of a waterway.

The shipping secretary and acting chairman of the BIWTA were present at the meeting.

## Govt borrowing

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also put it down to Tk 155 crore shortfall in revenue collection and additional spending from the end of July because of the floods, as well.

The officials, however, said there is nothing to worry about as the borrowing would not exceed the Tk 2,599 crore-limit set aside in the budget. They pointed out that government borrowing last year was 19 percent less than the revised target of Tk 1,501 crore, as only 92 percent of the local component of the revised ADP (annual development programme) could be implemented.

The latest statistics of Bangla-desh Bank show although borrowing fell last fiscal year, it surged in the state-owned enterprises (SoEs). The government is pledge-bound to downsize the SoEs and cut down on pumping funds into the SoEs.

The borrowing by the SoEs rose around 21 percent last fiscal year against 0.24 percent the previous year. Sources said a big chunk of the borrowing went to Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority and Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation.

## Rab nabs

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the AK-47 rifle, three magazines loaded with 90AK-47 bullets from the house.

Rab arrested Solaiman with five AK-47 bullets, as he reportedly attacked Rab members with a dagger in a bid to help Yakub escape.

The arrestees were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital after Rab handed them over to Fatikchhari police.

## Panic grips Basila

FROM PAGE 1

"Yesterday (Tuesday) the depth of the river on this spot was about 20 feet and today (Wednesday) it seems to be more than 50 feet," said Mia Hossain, who has lost more than half of his ancestral home and is worried that the river will devour the rest by tomorrow.

"If emergency steps are not taken to save Basila, the whole of it might be devoured," he said.

Meanwhile, local people continued to enforce a haltal on the river and stopped all barges plying it. Youths in motor boats were seen beating up water transport workers, who tried to defy the haltal.

Politically influential people, who own barges, extracted sand from the riverbed and consequently increased its depth, exposing Basila to severe erosion, the locals alleged.

"They extracted crores of taka worth of sand from the riverbed in an unplanned way. When we tried to stop them, they threatened us with dire consequences," said local resident Noor Islam.

The locals yesterday tried to remove the dyke built by the three major encroachers -- brick kiln owners -- to divert the course of the river as the onset

of the floods. "We have removed some bricks from the dyke but that is not enough for restoring the original course of the river," said Mohammad Ashim Biswas of Basila.

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka yesterday visited the affected area and told journalists that he would sit with experts of the Water Development Board and the shipping ministry today to find a quick solution to the problem.

The mayor said Basila erosion is the first such incident within DCC jurisdiction. "If the brick kilns are responsible for diverting the course of the river, we shall remove them," he said.

## Home help dies

FROM PAGE 1

appeared the girl jumped to her death.

"We're waiting for the autopsy report to find out whether the girl was raped," he added.

Giving details of the death, Propid, a security guard of the building, said: "On hearing a sound in the footpath adjacent to the house at around 7:00am, I went to the scene and found Rozina lying unconscious."

Guard Supervisor Shamsul Alam rushed her to the DMCH where doctors pronounced her dead.