

TIPAIMUKH DAM

JS team returning empty-handed: BNP

Hafiz calls for JRC meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Vice President Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed yesterday asked the government to meet for holding a meeting of Bangladesh-India Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) to discuss Tipaimukh Dam issue as the parliamentary delegation is returning home today empty-handed.

The government should call a JRC meeting immediately to raise the people's concern over the proposed dam as it is the only forum which includes experts from both the countries," said Hafiz who was also former water resources minister.

While talking to reporters at his Banani residence, Hafiz said the parliamentary delegation went to India without any technical experts and returned home without visiting the site of the dam at Tipaimukh.

He said the parliamentary team could go to Tipaimukh by

road, but they had chosen helicopter to avoid the protests by the people of Manipur.

"They could have waited a few more days and visit the site. I do not understand why they have returned empty-handed."

"Bangladesh has been asking for data on Tipaimukh project for three decades but India has never heeded to the demand and now the parliamentary team has returned without visiting the site," he added.

Hafiz said the government had sent the team to allay fears of millions of people but the team has failed in its mission.

"India will never provide the parliamentary team with data on the dam. If that country had any good intention, it could have placed them at the JRC meeting," he asserted.

The former minister said it is a highly technical issue and as such experts should have been included in the team, but the government did not respond to their call and sent

the parliamentary team which has failed to defuse the accumulated tension and concern of people.

"BNP had repeatedly sought information about the project. On May 18, 1992 Bangladesh asked for data and again the BNP-led coalition government had twice objected to the project at the JRC meetings. But the Indian government did not provide us with the data," he alleged.

When asked about the comment of lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury that BNP reformists will face tough consequence in party council, Hafiz, a top leader of party's defunct reformists' faction, said, "I will not make any comment. Only chairperson and secretary general can speak on it. He (Chowdhury) is my friend and I don't want to make any comment about him."

Youths urged to take lead in war crimes trial process

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar at Jahangirnagar University yesterday demanded immediate punishment to war criminals, urging the young generation to take the lead in the process.

Department of International Relations organised the seminar styled 'War crimes tribunal and responsibilities of the new generation'.

Speaking as the chief guest, Vice Chancellor Dr Sharif Enamul Kabir said people gave their mandate to the present government to try the war criminals.

The young generation must take the lead to bring the war criminals to justice, he added.

Dr Md Abdul Mannan Chowdhury said the liberation war in 1971 was a battle for survival which was against the Pakistani soldiers. Those who rallied behind the Pakistani soldiers and aided them to perpetrate the heinous atrocities are war criminals. They are well-identified individuals.

Abdullah Kafi, chairman of the department, also spoke.

Officers' Club executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Shahjahan Majumder, MA Razek and Khandaqar Rashidul Haque have been elected vice-chairmen and Abu Alam Md Shaheed Khan has been elected general secretary of the Officers' Club, Dhaka for 2009-11, says a press release.

The election of the club's executive committee was held on July 31.

Other office-bearers are joint secretaries -- M Khalid Mahmud, Azmal Kabir and Abdul Mannan; treasurer -- MA Kader Sarker and members -- Subarna Chowdhury, Ansar Ali Khan, Prof Kabir Uddin, Ahmad Majumder, Mustakim Billah Faruqi, KM Mozammel Haque, Makbul Hossain Paik, Prof Iffat Ara Nargis, Mahfuzur Rahaman Sarker, Ashrafunnissa Khan Rozi, Dr Monilal Aich, Litu, Bazil Kabir Bhuyan, MA Mazid, Ruhul Matin and Dr Imdadul Haque.

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