

BNP's G9 slates

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said for 'role in 1/11 political changeover.'

No other speaker however did speak in line with Shafik Rehman at the programme.

Group-2009 (G-9), a platform of pro-BNP men from different professional bodies, organised the convention styled 'National Convention on Human Rights' at city's Purbanai Hotel.

Presided by Sayeeful Islam, President of G-9, the convention was addressed among others by Prof Emaazuddin Ahmed, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, Shamser Mobin Chowdhury, former foreign secretary and senior journalist Amanullah Kabir.

Daniel R Breton, leader of Canadian Movement on War Against Afghanistan, Jean-Marc Pelletier, former mayor of Brossard City, Quebec Province of Canada, also attended the convention. Shafik Rehman, editor of the weekly Moushak Dhil, presented the key note paper styled "Human rights in Bangladesh are at stake."

Interestingly, no BNP politician was at the convention.

This is for the first time since the Awami League (AL)-led government took office any pro-BNP professional group organised such convention to raise voice against the present government's activities.

A booklet was also distributed on the occasion titled "Eleven month's rule of the Awami League Government, Cry for Human Rights". G-9 published the booklet depicting 'wrongs' of the government's 11-months "misrule."

Addressing as chief guest, Emaazuddin Ahmed said, "An elected government is the first step of democratic system. But establishing rule of law is an imperative to establish real democracy."

He also said, "This country has vast opportunity to become a prosperous country. Those who say that Bangladesh is poor are telling lies. The policy makers of the country are rather poor."

Shamser Mobin strongly

criticised the government for its 'bow-down' foreign policy especially with India in terms of killing of Bangladeshi citizens by Indian border security forces.

In the keynote paper, Shafik Rehman raised several examples of violation of human rights by the present government.

A section of media with the help of intelligence agencies had published various 'true-false' information on doctors, engineers, other professionals, politicians and businessmen apart from the lawyers, "he said.

The 'ill-efforts' started to decrease with the realisation that the minus two formula was going to fail, he said.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty in October last said at a meeting at Harvard University that his government is helping Bangladesh's media. Mr Mahfuz Anam was sitting beside Mr Moriarty. I request Mr Moriarty not to allow and entertain discriminatory journalism," Shafik Rehman said.

If you believe in transparency, let us know how and what assistance the American government has offered to which media."

ACC to quit Matin probe

STAR REPORT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has decided to close investigation into the corruption charges against former adviser Maj Gen (rtd) MA Matin in awarding container-handling job at Chittagong port as the allegations against him were not proved.

The ACC made the decision following submission of a probe report by the parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry, which could not find any instance of irregularities by Matin, private TV channel ATN Bangla reports.

The probe did not show anything that was done with bad intentions. Everything was done in line with the law and within the jurisdiction," ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahaman said.

On September 29, a three-member ACC team started probing the corruption allegations against Matin. It also questioned five Chittagong port officials at its office.

ACC formed the committee on September 17 at the behest of the shipping ministry.

On May 27, the parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry formed a four-member sub-committee, headed by lawmaker Shah Alam, to investigate the corruption allegations against Matin.

The parliamentary body asked the sub-committee to submit report to it within 30 days.

Brown updates Hasina on adaptation fund

UNB, Dhaka

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown yesterday telephoned Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and informed her that an adaptation fund has been formed to help Bangladesh and other most vulnerable countries to calamitous climate change caused by the global warming.

Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad told UNB that the British premier phoned Hasina at 3:00pm and informed her about the latest development, as a summit-level brainstorming over the climate change issues is on steam in Copenhagen.

Hasina thanked her British counterpart for raising the climate fund for Bangladesh-like countries that bear the brunt of the consequences of excessive carbon emissions from the developed nations.

"But this fund is not sufficient. With this money it will not be possible for Bangladesh and other vulnerable countries to face the challenges posed by the climate change," Hasina was quoted by her press secretary as having told Brown during the tele-talk.

The EU leaders on Friday announced in Brussels after tough talks that they would commit \$ 3.6 billion (2.4 billion euro) a year until 2012 to a short-term fund for poor countries. Most of this money came from Britain, France and Germany.

With a draft agreement on the table, climate negotiators at the global meet in the capital of Denmark are bargaining over emission targets and financing - key issues that need to be resolved before world leaders can sign a pact to curb global warming.

A draft agreement was sent around Friday to the 192-nation conference, although it set no firm figures on financing or on cutting greenhouse-gas emissions.

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occurred somewhere else and later the body was left there, police said.

The body, with bullets to the head and neck, was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

KADMATOLI

"SHOOTOUT"

Dewan Hossain alias Grill Dewar, 35, was killed in a "shootout" in Kadamtoli area last night.

Dewar was allegedly the second-in-command of Dakat Shaheed gang active in Old Dhaka. He was accused in several murder cases with different police stations in the capital, police sources said.

Sub-inspector Liakat Ali of Kadamtoli Police Station said Dewar and his gang opened fire on a police patrol prompting them to fire back around 8:00pm.

SI Liakat said as the gunfight ended, they found Dewar lying dead on the ground. His cohorts managed to escape the scene.

Stock markets in Mexico, Korea and Bangladesh declined notably less amid the global economic meltdown. Since the rebound in equity markets, some markets have recovered substantially. Brazil and Mexico are almost back to their previous peaks.

Bangladesh has recovered all its losses, says Goldman Sachs, adding that China and Russia have only regained around half of their respective all-time highs.

"Global credit crisis and recession have tested the resilience of our GES (Growth Environment Score)," which is designed to measure the strength of a country's sustainable growth, Goldman Sachs says.

Brazil, China, Indonesia and even Bangladesh have shown less vulnerability to the crisis.

All the BRIC and N-11 countries, with the exception of Bangladesh, have given back a large share of the gains made in the macro stability category, as a result of higher inflation, rising external debt and deteriorating government deficits. Political conditions have also suffered in some places.

All the countries that rank relatively highly in terms of their GES are expected to recover faster. These include Brazil, India, Indonesia and the Philippines appear to be performing best.

Bangladesh, Egypt, Korea, Nigeria, Turkey and Vietnam form a second group of countries that have performed broadly in line with expectations," says the report.

On an individual country basis, all of the BRICs and seven of the N-11 countries - Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Nigeria, Philippines and Vietnam - contributed more to world growth in 2007-2008 than from 2000 to 2006.

Between 2007 and 2009, Mexico, Russia and Turkey saw the deepest downturns in the two groups. These three coun-

Bangladesh seeks

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and PDB officials. Each of them will address different aspects of investment in the energy sector of Bangladesh.

It will seek investors for four coal-fired 500 MW power plants in Meghnaghat, Zajira, Khulna and Chittagong. The government intends to use supercritical pressure technology for plants to ensure least greenhouse emission while the financing will be done on the basis of private-public partnership. The coal plants will need three billion dollars.

Coal would be imported from Indonesia or Australia unless Bangladesh's own coal fields can produce enough for these plants. Coal will be transported through the waterways.

The team will also seek investors for two large combined cycle power plants with a capacity ranging between 300 MW and 450 MW for Bibiyana-2 and Meghnaghat-2 and a 150 MW plant in Bholia. The Bholia plant will use gas from a small gas field discovered in the nineties but left unutilised.

In addition, the road show will seek investors for two 100 MW peaking power plants in Kalaiakoir and Savar aimed at catering to industrial needs, especially tannery sector. Both of these plants will have dual fuel capacity so that they operate both on gas and oil.

Considering the country's on-going and future gas crisis in a situation where a good number of gas-based power and industrial units have already been installed, the government plans to install an LNG terminal in the Bay of Bengal, preferably near the off-shore Sangu gas field system. The terminal will help easy off-loading of imported LNG containers by ships and transmit LNG into the national gas system.

"The terminal should have the capacity to transmit 3.5 million tonnes of LNG," said PDB Chairman Alamgir Kabir.

This terminal, a popular method for import or export of LNG worldwide, might cost around one billion dollars. According to Kabir, on December 15 in London, the BOI chief will speak on investment climate and economic condition in Bangladesh while the power secretary and chairman of the PDB and Petrobangla will make presentations on power, gas and LNG issues.

They will touch upon policy issues, track record of private power in Bangladesh where the government has not even failed to pay power developers, and legal issues while private power developers never had any serious dispute with the government.

The BPC chairman will talk about facilitating fuel supplies in the two dual fuel power projects while the Berc chairman will speak on regulatory issues and tariff. The Bangladesh Bank deputy governor will dwell on transferability of foreign exchange and other relevant issues.

Following this seminar, the team will have one-to-one

discussion with the participants from afternoon till evening and on the next day till afternoon.

This is going to be the biggest power sector road show. The team will hold further road shows on the same investment prospect in Singapore and New York on January 25-26 and 28-29 next year.

"Our target is to float the pre-qualification (PQ) process to find suitable investors by March next for Bibiyana,

Meghnaghat and Bholia power projects," said the PDB chairman.

"We want to lead the world when it's a matter of climate change adaptation," said lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chief of the all-party group on climate change.

"We need to show the world that we are not just victims but doing a lot to battle the climate change," said Raja Debashish Roy, former special assistant to the chief adviser to a caretaker government.

"Ainun Nishat said agriculture and eco-system depend on the climatic order in Bangladesh.

He said Bangladesh's agricultural sector is facing many problems but the country is making preparations to fight climate change.

Bangladesh has already made its national action plan and it will be included soon in the five-year development plan panel to guide us with the coal plants."

The PDB's coal experts will visit India on December 16-17 to see private and state-owned coal power projects and make inquiries. Later another team will visit Chinese coal-based powerplants.

As per the Power System Master Plan (PSMP) update will seek investors for two 100 MW peaking power plants in Kalaiakoir and Savar aimed at catering to industrial needs, especially tannery sector. Both of these plants will have dual fuel capacity so that they operate both on gas and oil.

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To the people reconstruction of embankment is a dire need at present, said Zillur, adding that Aila damaged a 50-foot stretch of the dam, which has increased to 300 feet, as instant actions had not been taken, he said.

Former adviser to the last caretaker government Zillur Rahman alleged that discussions on Bangladesh at the ongoing climate change summit in Copenhagen are creating panic among the people living in the coastal areas.

He concluded that the resilience and strength of these people should be highlighted in the Copenhagen climate change summit.

Eight ferries with around 150 vehicles were stopped in the midstream of River Padma for 12 hours while six ferries had to wait at Paturia and Daulatdia terminals as ferry services were suspended due to poor visibility, reports our Manikganj correspondent. Nearly 200 trucks loaded with goods and 400 buses and other vehicles were seen waiting at Paturia and Daulatdia terminals in the morning.

Meanwhile, ferry service on Mawa-Kawrakandi route was suspended for nine and a half hours until 10:30am yesterday, report our Munshiganj and Madaripur correspondents.

Two ferries, one at Mawa ghat and the other one at Kawrakandi ghat, waited for hours because of poor visibility.

Around 500 trucks, 60 buses and other vehicles were stuck on both sides of the river because of delays in ferry services.

It was not even possible to see two feet ahead through the dense fog, said M Sirajul Islam, manager of BIWC at Mawa ghat.

"It means that thanks to innovations, tools like Ushahidi, FrontlineSMS, Twitter, and Facebook, you're seeing people becoming more and more a primary and trusted source of information in disasters."

Terminal examination would also be introduced in the madrasa education like that of primary schools, he said.

M TTI Principal Mahbubul Alam presided over the inaugural ceremony. Sabi Ahmed Momtazi, secretary general of Jamiatul Madrasin, also spoke.

A total of 138 principals and senior madrasa teachers from across the country are taking part in the 31st education administration and management training courses.

"The challenge with this, as we found with Twitter in

Allocate fund

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Ainun Nishat, member of the delegation, presented the facts on climate change while Mihir Kanti Majumder, secretary to the forest and environment ministry, conducted the session.

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"We need to show the world that we are not just victims but doing a lot to battle the climate change," said Raja Debashish Roy, former special assistant to the chief adviser to a caretaker government.

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