

Noman seeks Tk 2,000cr budgetary funds for Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP Vice-chairman Abdullah Al Noman here yesterday demanded special block allocation of Tk 2,000 crore in budget for the greater development of Chittagong.

He urged all, irrespective of political affiliations, to launch agitation for infrastructure development and enhancement of the capacity of Chittagong Port to accelerate the country's economic growth.

He said the present government has taken no single development project for Chittagong in the last one year and nine months.

Noman criticised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for terming the four projects, she inaugurated on September 8, "Eid gifts to Chittagong people".

All the projects were initiated and mostly implemented during the tenure of last four-party government, claimed Noman.

He was addressing a view exchange meeting with journalists at a local restaurant in the afternoon.

Noman pointed out different development projects he undertook as a minister during the two terms of BNP government since 1991.

He said the allegation of local Awami League leaders that BNP did nothing is false.

He said projects like the 3rd Karnaphuli Bridge, new Chittagong courthouse and Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Ltd were initiated and mostly implemented by BNP led 4-party government.

Terming the country's current political and economic situation "unstable", Noman urged to launch mass movement against the AL-led government.

In a reply, he said the intra-party conflict in Chittagong BNP is a 'difference of opinion', not unusual in a large political party.

Such "differences" would not block the way for anti-government movement, Noman observed.

BNP city unit General Secretary Dr Shahadat Hossain, BNP central committee member Mahmudul Hoque Shamim, BNP leaders MA Sabur, Sheikh Md Mohiuddin, Aslam Chowdhury, Jubo Dal leaders Anwar Hossain, Abul Hashem Bakkar, Sramik Dal leader Sheikh Nurullah Bahar, among others, were present at the meeting.

EXTORTION CASE Four journos sent to jail in Naogaon

UNB, Naogaon

Five men, including four journalists, accused in an extortion case were sent to jail when they appeared before the court yesterday.

Magistrate of the cognizance court rejected the bail petitions and sent them to jail. They are correspondents QM Sayeed Tito of Focus Bangla, Barun Majumder of the Dainik Karotoa, Kazi Shamsuzzoha Milan of the Manab Zamin, free lancer Mashur Rahman Mithu and Sanjit Kumar Das.

Zillur Rahman of Kunjaban village in Mahadevpur upazila filed the case against them. He said in his petition that the accused had demanded a bribe of Tk 10,000 pledging to report in his favour in a dispute over land.



Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) demolishes illegal structures on Uttara Road No-16-23 near Uttara-Ashulia embankment in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)



Chief Information Commissioner Muhammad Zamir speaks at a discussion titled "Right to Information training of designated public officials" at Archaeology Bhavan in Agargaon in the city yesterday.

17 polythene traders fined Tk 1 lakh

DU CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday fined 17 traders at Mirpur and Kachukhet in the capital a total of around Tk one lakh instantly for illegally selling and storing polythene bags, says a press release.

The court also filed cases against the traders on the same charge.

The court led by Sukumar Biswas, Dhaka divisional acting director of the Department of Environment (DoE), also seized around two tonnes of polythene bags.

Of the traders, five were from Kachukhet and 12 were from Mirpur areas.

During the drive, officials also distributed anti-polythene leaflets and attached stickers on the area.

Dhaka district's Executive Magistrate Roni Chakma conducted the mobile court accompanied by police and DoE officials.

The drive was being conducted as part of an on-going one-week drive against use of banned polythene. Starting on last Sunday, the weeklong drive ends today.

UK assures support for disaster-hit people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

But those could not be strengthened or increased in height due to financial constraints, he added.

Besides, 2000 cyclone shelter centres in the coastal areas are not adequate, he said, adding that international aid agencies like the Department for International Development (DFID) of UK should come forward on this regard.

In response, Alan Duncan said DFID has already taken a good number of projects to increase the living standards of the low-income people.

He said the issue of rebuilding coastal embankments was not in his knowledge.

He added that he would allocate money, in the next budget of the DFID, for the rebuilding of embankments and setting up new cyclone shelters.

The UK assured Bangladesh of assistance in rebuilding coastal embankments and constructing cyclone shelter centres to help save people from natural disasters.

This pledge came when Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque met British Minister of State for International Development Alan Duncan at his office in England on Tuesday.

Razzaque told the UK minister that Bangladesh has been a disaster-prone country and climate change has hugely increased the risks by putting people in danger, says a food ministry press release.

He said since the cyclone Aila that devastated the country's southwestern districts last year, the coastal embankments remain vulnerable.

BARAPUKURIA Affected people to get compensation

BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday decided to give cash compensation directly to the affected people of Barapukuria coal mine area as per their demand.

"We have decided to give cash money to the affected people of Barapukuria coal mine area directly", M Mizbahuddin, secretary of the energy division told the news agency.

He said the decision was taken following a week long meeting with the affected families of Barapukuria coal mine area.

It was also decided to establish a coalmine city at Dinajpur district to start coal extraction from Barapukuria and Phulbari coal mine soon.

The government earlier formed a high-powered committee to look into the interest of the people affected by landslide at Barapukuria coalmine area.

The committee members visited the affected areas recently, to assess the situation and they also discussed with the local people about the compensation, a senior official of the energy ministry said.

Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, the adviser to the prime minister chaired a meeting at energy division yesterday to discuss the Barapukuria issue.

Enamul Haque, the state minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Mostafizur Rahman, the state minister for Land, Energy Secretary M. Mizbahuddin and officials concerned were present.

The government has allocated a Tk 265 crore compensation package for 1320 affected families of Barapukuria.

According to the energy ministry, families in the seven villages including Kalupara, Barapukuria (partially), Bashpukur (partially), Jigagari, Moupukur and Balram were badly affected during the landslide in January last.

The energy ministry sources said the government will acquire 490 acre of land of the mining areas to establish the proposed coalmine city.

According to the Petrobangla the Barapukuria coalfield has a reserve of around 389 million tonnes of coal.

Four killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

At least four people were killed in separate road accidents in Rajshahi, Thakurgaon and Comilla on Tuesday night and yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Rajshahi reports: At least two persons were killed in a road accident on Nawdapara Bus Terminal road near Mango Square in Rajshahi city yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Kader, 40, a fish trader and Marfat Ali, 32, a driver of human-hauler of Kukhandi area at Matihar in the city.

Police said the accident occurred around 7:30am while Kader was carrying fishes to Nawdapara market from Motihar by the human-hauler. When the vehicle reached near Mango Square, a speeding truck driver lost his control over the steering taking turn at the square and hit the human-hauler.

The two persons died on the spot. Police sent the bodies to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy and seized the truck.

Our correspondent from Thakurgaon reports: A woman was killed in a road accident on Thakurgaon-Baliadangi road at Mothurapur village under Sadar upazila in Thakurgaon on Tuesday night.

The deceased was not identified immediately, aged about 50.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a Baliadangi-bound microbus hit her while she was walking alongside the road leaving her seriously injured at about 7:30pm.

Locals rushed her to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries at about 8:20pm.

A UD case was filed with Thakurgaon Police Station in this connection.

A correspondent from Comilla adds: A woman and her daughter were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Syedpur in Chouddagram upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Nasima Begum, 35, wife of Tajul Islam and her daughter Sweete Akhter, 8, a student of class three of Goragora village at the upazila.

According to eyewitnesses and police, the accident took place when a passenger bus coming from Chittagong ran over the mother and the daughter while they were crossing the road.

Police sent the bodies to Comilla Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with the Chouddagram Police Station.

Manpower exporting Asian states' meet in March-April likely

BSS, Dhaka

The fourth ministerial conference of the Colombo Process, a forum of manpower exporting Asian countries, will be held in March or April next year instead of October.

Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Minister Engr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain said this while talking to journalists at VIP lounge of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the city yesterday.

Mosharrar returned home after attending a pre-conference meeting of the Colombo Process held in Geneva in Switzerland from September 16 to 21.

He said time is needed to prepare effective strategy paper for protecting rights and interest of expatriate workers.

He said considering the situation the member-countries of the Colombo Process reached consensus to hold the conference in March or April next year. The conference was scheduled to be held in Dhaka this year.

Blaming a section of NGOs for creating instability in the garment industry, Mosharrar said, "We sought cooperation of International Labour Organisation (ILO) to stop such conspiracy." He said the ILO chief has assured him of providing all assistance to Bangladesh in this regard.

In reply to a question, he said they are looking for new labour markets in different countries to send more workers.

A few thousand of workers will be sent to Sudan, Congo and Jordan soon, he added.

GAZIPUR BLAST Death toll rises to four

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another victim of an explosion at a ceramic factory in Gazipur succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday raising the death toll to four.

Akhas Ali died at DMCH Burn unit at around 10:00pm.

Selim Miah and Abdul Haque were fighting for their lives at the burn unit, said DMCH sources.

Samanta Lal Sen, project director of DMCH Burn and Plastic surgery unit, said the two were in critical condition with more than 50 percent of their bodies burnt.

Sen told The Daily Star that intake of Burn Patients from different industrial areas including Dhaka and adjoining areas have increased in recent times.

He said accidents could be brought down if awareness among factory owners and workers increased and the government tightened monitoring.

The printing section of Sun Power Ceramics at Joydevpur exploded at about 11:00am Monday, critically burning six employees.

CLASH WITH DMCH EMPLOYEES, HAWKERS Case filed against DU students, staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A hawker yesterday filed a case with Shahbagh police in connection with Tuesday's clash between students and employees of Dhaka University's Shahidullah Hall and Dhaka Medical College Hospital employees and hawkers.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Shahbagh Police Station Rezaul Karim said the hawker, Jibon, whose shop was ransacked and allegedly looted during the clash in front of DMCH emergency gate, filed the case against four employees of Shahidullah Hall by name and 40 to 50 unidentified students and employees of the hall.

At least five people were injured in the clash.

The students set fire to around 25 shops and vandalised a number of makeshift shops on the footpath in front of the DMCH at around 10:30pm on Tuesday, police said.

Students of Shahidullah Hall said the children of the DMCH employees and hawkers peddle cannabis and use drugs at the hall premises and the adjoining areas. Yesterday they beat a child of a hall employee that led to the clash.

Meanwhile, home minister, state minister for home and Dhaka metropolitan police commissioner visited DMCH yesterday noon to see a police constable who received bullet injuries during the clash.

Replying to the journalists' queries the minister and state

Boy dies after rooftop fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolboy died after falling from the roof of his two-storey residence at Alambagh in city's Kadamatali yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Shakil, a class three student of KM Moinuddin High School at the area.

Shakil's uncle Iqbal Hossain said after returning from school, Shakil along with two other kids went to play in the roof amidst rain at around 3:30pm.

Shakil fell from the roof while playing, he said, adding that the roof was slippery and had no surrounding railing.

Iqbal said his nephew was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at around 8:00pm.



A rally was held in front of the National Museum in the city yesterday on the occasion of the World Car-Free Day with a call to control private cars on the city streets developing mass transport system. Citizen's Rights Movement, Nirapad Development Foundation and WBB Trust organised the event.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Sammilita Islami Jote will organise a seminar. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Meeting
Ministry of Commerce will arrange a meeting. Venue: Hotel Sarina, Banani, Time: 5:30pm.

Launching ceremony
British Council will organise an English learning materials launching ceremony. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel, Time: 11:00am.

Coupon draw ceremony
Agora will arrange a lucky coupon draw ceremony. Venue: Agora, Dhanmondi, Time: 11:00am.

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Announcement: Request for Proposals (RFP) to Assess the Impact of the Sisimpur Outreach Project

The Sisimpur project seeks proposals from research companies to conduct an evaluation of the Sisimpur Outreach project. The project is implemented in partnership with the Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Experience in conducting impact evaluations with adults and young children in rural and urban settings is necessary. To obtain full details of the RFP, please contact June Lee at global.research@sesameworkshop.org.

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এখনই ব্যবহার উপযোগী

শিল্প প্লট বিক্রয়

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