



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a public meeting in Kalabagan, Dhaka, yesterday.

Explain how Islamic militants get funds

Hasina dares home minister at public rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main opposition Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the home minister to explain how the Islamic militants are collecting funds and distributing leaflets. "The militants of the Jamaat-e-Islami, a ruling coalition partner, were arrested with arms from a BNP leader's house," she said referring to the Boalmari arrest of 18 suspected Islamic militants and asked Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury whether he could

deny that. Such militant outfits are growing in numbers in the country under the shelter of the present BNP-Jamaat-led government, Hasina said while addressing a rally at Kalabagan in the city.

It was organised by Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur and Hazaribag thana units of the party to protest 'total failure of the government to run the country'.

The AL chief blamed the BNP-Jamaat coalition government for

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Only 1 rides first bus to Agartala

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 40-seater bus from Dhaka set out for Agartala yesterday with a lone passenger on the inaugural day of commercial service.

The BRTC bus left for Agartala at 6:00am with only one commuter on board while seven including four home-bound journalists, who accompanied government dignitaries during the maiden trip to Agartala, returned to Dhaka yesterday, the BRTC sources said.

"We are not taking it as a negative sign and (rather) planning to attract passengers to take the tour," said Taimur Alam Khandaker, chairman of the BRTC, adding that the BRTC is

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Hoon to face new grilling before Hutton inquiry

AFP, London

Britain's embattled defence secretary, Geoff Hoon, and the government's outgoing press chief, Alastair Campbell, were expected to face tough cross-examination yesterday before a probe

into the death of an expert on Iraqi weapons.

The pair were to give evidence a second time to Lord Brian Hutton, the judge investigating the circumstances which led government scientist David Kelly to take his own life in July.

Kelly was the source of a hotly disputed BBC radio report in May which alleged that Prime Minister Tony Blair's office had "sexed up" an intelligence report last year to boost

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Micro-medium units adds 25pc to GDP

BSS, Dhaka

The country's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMES) contribute Tk 71,000 crore, equivalent to 20 to 25 percent, to gross domestic product (GDP).

A national private sector survey of enterprises in Bangladesh yesterday said there are approximately 60 lakh MSMES, which include enterprises with up to 100 workers.

International Consulting Group prepared the survey for Department for International Development, USAID, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

It said about 31 million people or 40 percent of the population aged 15 years and older are employed in MSMES. About three-quarters of MSMES contribute half or more of the household income in both urban and rural areas, while over three-quarters of MSMES are located in rural areas.

They survey pointed out that the higher income is not surprising since enterprises operate 11 months a year, 28 days per month, and ten hours per day

on an average.

Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, British High Commissioner in Bangladesh David Carter, FBCCI President Abdul Awal Mintoo and Survey Team Leader Lisa Daniels spoke on the occasion.

Addressing the function, the commerce minister stressed the need for more effective role of the financial institutions in the development of MSMES in the country. He said the entrepreneurs of MSMES had less scope to be heard in the formal business groups, which could have helped them in doing business more successfully.

The minister in this context underscored for taking measures to phase out underage labourers from the sector in this age of globalisation.

The British High Commissioner said the planners and the government should listen to the MSMES entrepreneurs to attain the targets of development as the private sector would play a vital role in the march to progress.

FBCCI president said that MSMES must hold the key to national development for a long time to absorb the increasing labour force in future.

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PHOTO: AFP

US soldiers and Iraqi police secure the area of a suicide car bombing near UN headquarters in Baghdad yesterday that also killed an Iraqi security guard and injured eight others.

'Criminal' shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified assailants gunned down an alleged criminal at Humayun Road in Mohammadpur yesterday.

Three youths, waiting in an auto-rickshaw a few yards off a house at Humayun Road, opened fire on Babu, 25, known as Chapati Babu, as he stepped out of the house at 1:30pm.

With bullet wounds in his chest and abdomen, Babu fell on the ground and was rushed to Suhrawardy Hospital. But he died on the way.

Mohammadpur police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Locals said Babu's rival 'Jahangir group' might have been involved in the killing. Police are yet to find any clue to the murder.

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Jhenidah halts for 10 mins to protest killing of Mukherjee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The town observed a 10-minute shutdown Monday morning to protest the killing of Dr S K Mukherjee, an octogenarian medical practitioner.

Business establishments and educational institutions remained closed and even pedestrians and rickshaws observed the token strike. There was absolute silence in the town during the shutdown beginning 11:00am.

But police have failed to make any progress in the investigation of the case, though two young men, Anwar Hossain of village Bhutiargati and Amirul Islam of Pagla Kanai area in the town, have been arrested. Anwar will be produced before a magistrate's court today.

Police could not ascertain the motive behind the killing that took

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60 hurt as police, Rohingyas clash in Ukhia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

At least 60 people, including four policemen, were injured in a clash between police and Rohingya refugees at Kutupalong refugee camp in Ukhia upazila on Sunday.

Officials and locals said the clash ensued at noon following arrest of two alleged Rohingya criminals named Jasimuddin, 33, and Azimullah, 38, at the camp.

A group of refugees, equipped

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Bomb blast kills 2 at UN compound in Baghdad

AP, Baghdad

A car bomb exploded last morning while the vehicle was trying to approach the UN compound in Baghdad, killing at least two people and injuring eight, police and witnesses said.

The blast occurred at the entrance to a parking lot next to the UN compound at the Canal Hotel, a UN employee said

on condition of anonymity. The blast occurred about 150-200 yards from hotel, scene of a devastating car bombing last month that killed about 20 people, including the UN's top envoy in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

"It appeared to have been a suicide bombing. The bomber drove up and was engaged by an Iraqi security individual just before the checkpoint" at the lot

entrance, Capt. Sean Kirley, a US 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment spokesman, told reporters at the scene. That policeman was killed, although it was not clear whether he was shot or died in the explosion, he said.

Kirley said eight other Iraqi policemen were wounded. He said he didn't know whether any US

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ADB proposes steamer service between Khulna and Kolkata

RAFIQ HASAN

People of Bangladesh and India may travel on cross-border waterways, as the passenger service, suspended after the 1947 partition of India, is likely to revive.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has come up with a proposal to introduce a passenger service between the two next-door neigh-

bours. India gave consent to the proposal, made under Indo-Bangla water transport protocol, but Bangladesh is yet to take any decision to that end.

A number of passenger ships plied the route from Kolkata to Khulna to Barisal to Goalundo before independence of India from the British rule. Assam and Sylhet had also waterway passenger service.

Under the protocol signed in 1980, only cargo is now transported between the two countries.

The ADB that sees ample scope for transportation of passengers after a minor amendment to the protocol says the passenger service can be introduced to several major rivers flowing through both the countries.

The proposal says some routes will be viable for cross-border movement of people and trade between the two countries with 54 common rivers.

A private sector joint venture, India Bangladesh Waterways

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 23		5-54 pm
Sept 24	5-48 am	

Prayer Timings		
September 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-20
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-00	6-05
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation