

Shazneen case

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family of the victim had falsely implicated the convicted as there is no history of previous enmity between the family and the accused.

Deputy Attorney General ABM Waliur Rahman in his argument before the High Court (HC) Death Reference Bench said the statements of the victim's family members given before the trial court have corroborations that make those more accurate and believable.

Yesterday's appeal hearing on the trial court's order at the HC Death Reference Bench comprising Justice Ali Asgar Khan and Justice Emdadul Haque will continue today.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, the youngest daughter of a leading businessman Latifur Rahman, also a class nine student of Scholastica, was raped and killed at their Gulshan home on April 23, 1998.

Latifur Rahman filed a case with Gulshan police station on the night of the murder and the police during their investigation filed another case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

The prosecution yesterday also pointed out that it could not have been possible for a father to give a false statement after his daughter had been raped and killed in such a brutal and heinous way.

Waliur Rahman also gave an example of a recent higher court order in India that had issued a directive saying that the statement of an aggrieved in a rape case should be sufficient to punish the accused.

He also pointed out that the statements of the victim's father and sisters are true and important, as they had no previous enmity with the accused.

Quoting from the statements of Latifur Rahman and his two living daughters, the prosecution said their statements also prove that the accused has direct link with the murder of Shazneen.

Latifur Rahman bade his 15-year-old youngest daughter goodnight at 8:00pm and went upstairs on the fateful night. Hearing the scream of his domestic help Moselem, he rushed to Shazneen's room and found her bloodstained body, said Waliur.

No utilised being can even think of a father who had experienced such a terrible sight, of giving false statement against anyone, the prosecution claimed.

Quoting from the statements of Shazneen's elder sisters, Waliur said, their accounts prove that they knew about Hasan's attempt to rape their sister.

That is why Latifur Rahman talked to his living daughters and learned about the activities of Hasan from others and became

confirmed that Hasan had plotted the killing, Waliur claimed.

The prosecution had placed the statements of Latifur Rahman, her two daughters Shazneen Haq Shehzi and Simin Hossain, and Shehzi's husband Arshadul Haq before the trial court also.

The witnesses in their accounts, made statements about Hasan's plotting, about hiring of the other convicts by him in exchange of money, and other issues. The prosecution said the witnesses had also mentioned the suspicious behaviours of the accused on the night Shazneen was murdered.

Quoting from Latifur Rahman's statement, the prosecution said the father saw the body of his daughter lying on the floor, some eight feet away from the bed.

He also saw marks of scuffling on her bed but no mark of blood in between the body and the bed, which made him think that more than one person were involved in the killing as there would have remained marks of dragging the body from the bed if one person had committed the crime.

The convicted are Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, a domestic help, Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan alias Azad, a contractor who had been hired to renovate the house the victim was living in, Badal, the contractor's assistant, Shaniram Mandal, a carpenter, and housemaids Estema Khatun Minu and Parveen.

The Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka on September 2, 2003 ordered the convicted to be hanged until their death.

England

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Sweden a precious point and guarantee their place in the last 16.

Despite producing some of their best football of the tournament for much of the game, England greeted the final whistle with relief after surviving a Swedish onslaught for much of the second half.

Sweden hit the woodwork and twice had shots cleared off the line as England suddenly looked horribly vulnerable from set-pieces.

England's draw came at a cost however, with Owen stretched off in agony in only the first minute with what looked like a serious injury after the Newcastle striker collapsed to the ground in pain.

Earlier, the return of Wayne Rooney in attack and the introduction of Owen Hargreaves in midfield paid off handsomely for Eriksson, giving England a much more balanced look from the outset.

In the 25th minute a sumptuous pass from David Beckham sent Rooney bearing down on the Swedish goal. The 20-year-old's first touch wrongfooted the Swedish defence but Rooney's subsequent low shot was well saved by Andreas Isaksson.

England's positive play got the goal it deserved on 36 minutes with Cole's stunning effort likely to go down as one of the goals of the tournament. A headed clearance from Teddy Lucic fell to the Chelsea player outside the area, who chested to control and then uncorked a looping right foot volley that flew into the top corner. Isaksson got a hand to it but there was to be no denying Cole a fabulous strike.

England suddenly found themselves scrambling almost from the start of the second half and Sweden equalised on 51 minutes.

John Terry deflected a Henrik Larsson shot wide and from Tobias Linderoth's ensuing corner, FC Copenhagen striker Alblass rose unchallenged to glance a header past Paul Robinson.

Moments later a corner from the opposite flank by Lyon's Kim Kallstrom was met with a wicked header from Freddie Ljungberg which Robinson deflected onto the underside of the bar with an instinctive save.

England's vulnerability from set-pieces saw the introduction of Arsenal centre-half Sol Campbell for Rio Ferdinand shortly afterwards but still the Swedish onslaught continued.

But Campbell was caught out of position when Lucic headed back across the face of goal to skipper Olof Mellberg on 60 minutes, who saw his shot shave the top of the cross bar with Robinson beaten.

With England banging on grimly, Eriksson withdrew Rooney from the fray for Steven Gerrard, the Liverpool captain stiffening the midfield as they switched to 4-5-1 with Crouch the lone striker.

It was Gerrard who came to England's rescue within minutes, clearing a Kallstrom shot off the line after another well-worked Swedish corner.

And Gerrard, who had been rested to avoid picking up a second booking that would keep him out of the second round, looked to have earned the points for England after nodding in Cole's cross.

Larsson had other ideas however.

2 govt advisers

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represented by cabinet secretary, and the cabinet secretary. The respondents of the rule on Ministry for Women and Children Affairs are Bangladesh, represented by the cabinet secretary, and the joint secretary of cabinet division.

The petitioners argued the prime minister and the cabinet is governed by the articles 55, 56, 57 and 58 of the constitution and the members of the cabinet are required to take oath before taking responsibility of the office.

The petition read, "No where in the constitution or in any other law, the provision for appointments of 'adviser' is provided and no oath is administered to the so-called advisers."

"The so-called system of appointing advisers is quite unknown to our system of government. For example, the cabinet form of government and the present government introduced it illegally after they came to power in 2001 to provide and place their men in governmental position illegally," the petition read.

The petitioners said in parliamentary democracy and in the cabinet form of government, ministers are collectively responsible to the parliament and sometimes they advise the government, but these so-called advisers are not in any way accountable or responsible to the parliament for their acts and omissions.

They said excluding the two advisers, the government appointed a number of advisers in several ministries, who assumed the so-called office and have been performing their official functions illegally without any constitutional sanctions.

They have been exercising executive powers like a minister and have access to important and secret files of the government in the concerned ministries, involving national and international interests, illegally without taking any oath as ministers are mandated by the constitution, they added.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud moved both the petitions while advocate MK Rahman, Shohab Ahmed and Zohurul Islam assisted him. Deputy Attorney General Razik Al Jallil and Assistant Attorney General Showkatul Huq were present in the court.

JS sees

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however neither issued any ruling nor resolved the debate. Replying to a lawmaker's query, he just said none of the issues being debated was on point of order.

At the beginning of the session, Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid initiated the debate, in which Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed, Industries Minister Matiar Rahman Nizami, Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, BNP lawmakers Joyal Abedin Faruk, Muzzem Hossain Alal and AL lawmakers Abdur Razzak, KM Jahangir, Shajahan Khan and Tanjeem Ahmed Sobel participated.

"Unruly behaviour of opposition activists prompted police to go into action," Moudud Ahmed said adding that police cannot sit idle when anarchy prevails and vehicles are damaged.

He criticised the AL lawmakers for staging the walk out even after delivering speeches on the issues.

Industries Minister Matiar Rahman Nizami said it is not true that police attacked a peaceful programme.

Referring to a part of a tea gas shell exhibited by AL lawmaker Shajahan Khan in the House, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda said it should be investigated whether a lawmaker can bring such a thing inside the House.

Earlier, when AL lawmaker Shajahan Khan showed the part of a tea gas shell, the acting speaker said, "You can't bring that in the House. It is illegal."

Referring to the opposition leader's June 12 speech in the House, Agriculture Minister MK Anwar said, "It is not possible for anyone to deliver such an indecent and derogative remark which she did."

"Our Nasiruddin Pintu yesterday (Monday) uttered only a few words. But the way the opposition lawmakers protested was not expected," he said.

Pointing to the opposition bench, the agriculture minister said, "We can't sit in silence to hear your speeches hour after hours. It cannot be continued—it is going beyond the limit of our patience. The House must be run according to the rules of procedure."

On the other hand AL lawmaker Tanjeem Ahmed Sobel, who was injured in yesterday's police attack, said cadres of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami took part in the atrocities wearing police uniform. "It's shameful that lawmakers are beaten up on the street. This also undermines the dignity of the parliament."

Jatiya Party lawmaker Golam Habib Dulal said people and the Supreme Court showed no confidence in the present EC due to its failure in preparing the voter list. "It is not possible for the present Election Commission to hold a credible election," he said demanding reconstitution of the EC.

Opposition activists

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opposition and the BNP called meetings at the school ground at 3:00pm.

In the capital, the police stormed into the Dhanmondi residence of former home minister and AL lawmaker Mohammad Nasim and charged batons on the opposition demonstrators who were throwing stones at them.

Five female workers were critically injured at Agargaon when the law enforcers beat them indiscriminately.

The police used batons, teargas shells and rubber bullets to disperse the opposition activists trying to break through barbed-wire barricades at Russell Square in Dhanmondi and Agargaon areas.

Vehicle movement on Mirpur Road, Rokeya Sarani and at Mohakhali was halted for about four hours from 10:00am due to the police barricades.

Clashes near the Russell Square erupted when police prevented several thousand opposition workers from marching towards the EC Secretariat at about 12:00noon. Stopped by the barbed-wire fences, a group of demonstrators started pelting stones at the police prompting the law enforcers to tear gas shells and fire rubber bullets.

Dispersed into two groups, the opposition workers continued throwing bricks at the police from different by-lanes. They also damaged a number of shopping malls on both sides of Mirpur Road during the hour-long clash.

The police indiscriminately beat AL lawmaker Tanjim Ahmed and his personal assistant Mohammad Kawsar and an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League who came to his rescue.

The seriously wounded three were admitted to Bangladesh Medical College Hospital.

The police chased another group of demonstrators who took shelter at Mohammad Nasim's residence around 1:00pm.

The chase and counter-chase continued until 2:15pm on Dhanmondi road No. 26 when the Mirpur Road came under the control of the law enforcers.

Earlier, the demonstrators led by opposition leaders Abdur Razzak, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haque Inu and Dilip Barua gathered near the Russell Square at 10:00am and held a rally before marching towards the EC Secretariat.

At Agargaon, policemen were seen beating female demonstrators indiscriminately with bamboo sticks. At least five female demonstrators were found lying almost unconscious on the road. They were later taken away on police vans.

The opposition demonstrators pelted stones at the police when they were barricaded near the Agargaon bus stoppage.

Leaders and activists of the AL, its front organisations and other components of the 14-party opposition alliance started to gather at Agargaon bus stoppage at 10:45am. Several hundred police intercepted them at the Agargaon crossing putting up barbed-wire fences. By 11:30am several thousand demonstrators gathered in the area and

Commuters suffer

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When told about the situation, he said in a depressed mood, 'Now how will I go to Farmgate?' He had but to start walking towards Farmgate.

Many others, unaware of the barricade on the road just below the fly-over, got stuck as traffic police stopped them while there was long queues of vehicles from Mohakhali to Farmgate.

Mirpur dwellers suffered a lot as road communication from the intersection at Mirpur no 10 to Farmgate remained suspended for three hours.

Many people were seen crossing the troubled areas on foot and trying to get a vehicle from the other side of the barricade. But at some places people could not even walk around due to the street fights between the police and opposition workers.

"I was in a hurry to go to

some of them started pelting brickbats at the police.

The law enforcers also countered them by throwing brickbats and charging batons.

Earlier in the morning, the police barricaded Rokeya Sarani at Mirpur-10 roundabout and Zia Uday crossing. Traffic was suspended on the road until 2:30pm.

The police prevented several hundred opposition demonstrators near the Mohakhali rail crossing. Opposition leaders Tofail Ahmed, Kazi Zafrullah, Rahmat Ali, Akhtaruzzaman and Subid Ali Bhuiyan led the demonstration that ended at about 1:00pm peacefully.

Meanwhile, at least 100 people were injured and over 50 buses damaged during a fierce clash between BNP and opposition workers who tried to besiege the district election office in Bagerhat yesterday, UNB reports.

The Bagerhat Bus Owners' Association declared a bus strike on all routes from the district in protest against the damage of buses and counters by the BNP men.

Witnesses said the workers of the AL-led 14-party combine gathered at the Bagerhat bus terminal at about 11:00am before proceeding towards the district election office.

The clash ensued when BNP men allegedly attacked the gathering, leaving more than 100 injured, including Bagerhat AL General Secretary Sheikh Kamruzzaman Tuku, Jubo League leaders Shikder Shariful and Sarwar Sheikh.

Bagerhat AL will stage demonstration in all upazilas today and tomorrow in protest of the attack.

2 kids wounded

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Rakib, 5, and Faisal, 8, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The robbery took place on the second floor flat of a Jahanara Begum at house No. 777 of block C in Khilgaon at 3:30pm.

Three people, with a package of sweets with them, were let in Jahanara's house when they introduced themselves as in-laws of Jahanara's son Pappu. After they entered the house, Pappu's wife could not recognise them as her relatives. At this stage, the robbers held the family members of the household hostage at gunpoint and tied them down.

The gang looted Tk 26,000 cash, five tola gold ornaments, one camera, one cell phone and other valuables.

The robbed family shouted for help as the crooks got out of the flat and the neighbours responded immediately.

Finding a huge crowd and law enforcers chasing them, the robbers opened fire to make their way out that hit the two children.

Locals caught one of the criminals, Mejbah, and handed him over to Khilgaon police while the others managed to flee. Police recovered a pair of earrings, the cell phone and the camera from his possession.

Police went out with Mejbah to find his two other accomplices, but without any success till filing of this report at 7:00pm last evening.

Dhanmondi but could not. I had to stand still for one and a half hours at the lobby of the IDB Bhaban as police and opposition workers were locked in a street fight," said a resident of Mirpur.

As police and opposition workers got involved in fighting in Dhanmondi area on the Mirpur road, the vehicles could not ply from Science Laboratory to Manik Mia Avenue.

"Once the situation worsens due to the clogging of traffic somewhere, it affects the entire city as the traffic system is like a chain," said a traffic sergeant.

"But today's situation is different. Although many people did not bring out their cars, the traffic congestion brought the city into a standstill," he added.

Police removed the barricade after 1:00pm that helped to gradual easing of the situation.

US wants

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Babar informed Negroponte about the current modernisation of Bangladesh's law enforcement agencies and the spectacular successes achieved in combating militancy and bringing the masterminds to justice within a short time.

The minister informed the US top official how the whole country under the leadership of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia spearheaded motivational campaign against the militant perpetrators and earned all-out support of the people, including religious personalities, imams of mosques, teachers of madrasas and intellectuals.

Negroponte gave assurance his country's continued support to Bangladesh in fighting terrorism through capacity building. He urged the Bangladesh government to continue to play its rightful role as a leader in the Muslim world and help create better understanding of terrorism in the Muslim world.

Meanwhile, the state minister for home also had separate meeting with top officials of the World Bank (WB) in Washington DC. He met WB Vice-president for South Asia Region Prof. C. Patel and Alternate Executive Director for the USA in WB Jennifer L. Dorn.

Babar said that Bangladesh has successfully dealt with the problem of militancy with the active support from the people. Explaining background information on the arrested militants in Bangladesh, Babar highlighted the problem of poverty that has contributed to the rise of extremism in Bangladesh as in the rest of the world.

Alternate Executive Director for Bangladesh in WB Zakir Hossain Khan was present during the meeting with the WB officials. Bangladesh Ambassador to USA Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury, Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry Akhtar Ahmed and other officials of the embassy were present in the meetings.

Robber killed

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According to a Rab press release, Aslam received bullets during the "shootout" that continued for 15 minutes and died instantly.

A shutter gun, five bullets and an axe were recovered from the spot.

SSC, Dakhil

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SSC and Dakhil examinees can also get their results by logging on to the website www.education-board.gov.bd and SSC (vocational) to http://result.breb.gov.bd.

No result will be available at the education boards, education ministry or newspaper offices.

UAE court

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Her sentence was upheld by the appeal court on Monday.

The couple were caught naked in bed in April when the woman's employer called the police after suspecting that she had sneaked her lover into her bedroom.

The woman was spared the death by stoning sentence because she was single while the man admitted to being married but said that he could not bring his wife over to the Emirates.

Like the ultra-conservative kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the court system in the UAE applies sharia, or Islamic law based on the Koran, the sayings of the Prophet Mohammed and the interpretations of scholars that came after him.

All sharia courts in the UAE hand down severe punishment that usually include the lash, a jail term and deportation for men and women who have affairs outside wedlock.

But they usually refrain from more severe sentences like beheading that are common in neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

The Emirates has never carried out an execution by stoning, an Emirati official told the Khaleej Times.

Ahmadiyya families

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over one lakh Khatme Nabuwat activists from across the country will take part in the programme and one thousand "security volunteers" will work to maintain "discipline" during the programme.

The outfit has been holding mass campaigns in Uttara area for the last few days.

The Khatme Nabuwat activists will bring out a truck procession at 8:00am today from the Zia International Airport area and march the city roads for 12 hours to drum up support for Friday's programme.

They will also bring out a procession from the north gate of the Ashkona Hajj Camp tomorrow. Leaders of the panicky Ahmadiyya community have sought security from the government.

Expressing grave concern over the Khatme Nabuwat programme, the EGDNC, Bangladesh Development Partnership, Nari O Manobadhikar Foundation, and Bangladesh Coalition for Child Rights asked the government to take adequate security measures for the Ahmadiyyas.

The anti-Ahmadiyya zealots earlier foiled an Ahmadiyya religious function in Sarishabari of Jamalpur on June 16.

Nurul Huda Abedi, principal of Jamalpur Aramrang Alia Madrasa and brother-in-law of captured Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Abdur Rahman, led the attack.

16,840 murders

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the nature of murders while records available with the Odhikar, a non-government organisation, said over 400 political killings, on an average, have occurred each year during the present government's period.

The alliance government has initiated various steps to improve law and order situation, the state minister told the House.

Chittagong district topped the list with 599 killings, while 566 were killed in Narayanganj, 499 in Mymensingh and 465 in Dhaka district.

There was no scope to raise any supplementary questions against the question as the question-answers were tabled as per the decision taken by the Business Advisory Committee.

The home ministry statistics provided in parliament are almost accurate, former inspector general of police (IGP) Mohammad Nurul Huda said.

"It is true that there is doubt in the public mind about the figure produced by police administration. But almost all of the murder cases are recorded with the police stations across the country. Possibility of suppressing any incident of murder is very little," Nurul Huda told The Daily Star yesterday.

Replying to another query, the state minister said about Tk 340

Moudud

FROM PAGE 1
The law minister, however, said that door-to-door visits are possible if the EC has good wishes, adding that there is no legal bar or strategic problem in doing so.

"It is a matter of the Election Commission whether or not it will visit door-to-door to revise the voter list. We, however, hope a flawless voter list will be prepared in accordance with the court's verdict," he said.

Asked about cutting out the names of the deceased people from the existing voter list, Moudud wondered whether anybody will apply for removal of a dead voter's name from the roll.

About the opposition's demand for the CEC's resignation, the law minister said it is a democratic right to demand the CEC's resignation. "But it depends on the chief election commissioner whether he will resign or not. We have nothing to do in this regard."

Rab

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Babar informed the House that of the 3,099 vehicles for the law enforcers, 12 armoured cars, eight riot vans, 38 prisoners' vans and two mobile evidence collection vans have been purchased during the present government's tenure.

PM urges teachers

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"Have confidence in me. Give us time. I promise you, we'll fulfil all of your rightful demands in phases as per our ability and resources," she told the primary teachers.

The prime minister said: "We need to have much wealth to consume more. We can increase our resources through work, not by stopping work. We have problems, scarcity, sorrow and sufferings. So we've been working relentlessly for development, production, employment and raising our incomes."

She said everybody has to keep in mind the country's resource constraints. Despite resource constraints, the prime minister said, the government has been giving highest allocation to education, as it believes that there is no alternative to education for development.

Later, the prime minister distributed prizes among the best performing primary students, best teachers and best managing committee.

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Primary and Mass Education Prof. Jahanara Begum also addressed the function organised by the primary and mass education ministry.

The slogan of this year's Primary Education Week was "Standard Education in Alleviating Poverty".

The prime minister asked the primary schoolteachers to teach the children with affection and love to groom them as worthy citizens.

Listing a number of schemes and steps taken by her government for the development of primary education, the prime minister said the government wants to reach primary education to the doorsteps of all.

She said nearly 60 lakh children are now being benefited with the government-sponsored stipend project under which Tk 100 is given for sending one child to school and Tk 125 for two kids.

The prime minister said Bangladesh has achieved the highest success in South Asia in increasing the rate of enrollment in primary schools and bringing gender equality.

crore has been spent to purchase arms, ammunition and vehicles for the police and Rab during the rule of the alliance government.

The list placed before the House said the home ministry has purchased 1,04,363 different types of arms, 66,88,600 bullets, 67,000 tear gas shells, 2,000 gas grenades and different types of vehicles including 12 armoured cars.

Replying to a query of Jatiya Party lawmaker Hafizuddin Ahmed, Babar said from October 10, 2001 to May 31, 2006 the government issued 1,274 firearms licences.

Responding to another query the state minister informed the House that 25 policemen were killed and 33 injured in Khulna division during the present government's time.

Hasina leaves

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award at a ceremony at Calcutta University.

The ruling BNP views Hasina's visit to India as not only a visit to receive the award but a political pilgrimage, it instructed the Bangladesh mission there to closely monitor her programmes in New Delhi and Kolkata.

A highly placed source in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) told The Daily Star yesterday that the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi and the Deputy High Commission in Kolkata have been instructed to provide Hasina with full protocol. The source said the government has already got the itinerary of Sheikh Hasina's five-day visit to India.

Talking to The Daily Star, Hasina's political secretary, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, however said she has no meeting scheduled with top Indian leaders. "If any meeting takes place between the Indian leaders and the leader of the opposition of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, it will not be unusual during her stay in India."

Hasina's seven-member entourage includes AL Presidium Member Kazi Zafarullah MP, her Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Syed Abul Hossain MP, Sheikh Helal MP and former ambassador Ziauddin.

Meanwhile, an AL delegation led by its General Secretary Abdur Jallil, yesterday left for China at the invitation of the Chinese government.

The delegation members include Jubo League President Jahangir Kabir Nanok, its General Secretary Mirza Azam, Jahid Hasan Russell MP, Dr Alauddin Ahmed MP and Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury Lito MP. Jallil's wife Rehana Jallil also accompanied him. The delegation is expected to return home on June 28.

During the absence of Hasina and Jallil, AL's Senior Presidium Member Zillur Rahman and its Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader will act as the party's president and general secretary respectively.

Under this programme, various activities, including appointment of new teachers, training of teachers and officials, enhancing the efficiency of schools, infrastructural development and free supply of textbooks and materials are being implemented, the prime minister said.

In the first phase, appointment of 12,000 teachers has already been completed apart from taking an initiative to recruit 1,000 assistant upazila education officers, she said, adding that 18,000 primary school teachers have been imparted C-in-Ed training while 17,000 are now receiving the training.

A total of 90,000 teachers will get training under the programme.