

Remove irregularities in Islamic varsity : Hasina

Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for a halt to the activities of communal forces and removal of all irregularities in the Islamic University, reports UNB.

The Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament voiced the demand when a delegation of Chhatra League Islamic University branch met with Hasina at her official residence Sunday morning.

Hasina said unrest and insecurity prevails in all educational institutions including the Islamic University. An irritating atmosphere has also gripped all spheres of the society, she added.

The opposition leader said without proper environment, flourishment of fair thinking and outlook was not possible.

Referring to distortion of history of the country's independence war, Hasina said a planned move is underway to make the nation's glorious history controversial.

Earlier, President of the Chhatra League Islamic University unit Shajahan Shaju apprised Hasina of different problems being faced by the students of the university.

Awami League leaders Abdul Jalil and Obaidul Qader were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, the Awami League President in a statement yesterday protested the arrest of four Chhatra League leaders in Sylhet.

Police arrested Acting General Secretary of Sylhet Govt. College student union Faruq Ahmed, Mesbahuddin.

Bombs hurled at police van : Two injured

SYLHET, Oct 4: Two policemen were seriously injured when some Juba Command processionists hurled bombs at a patrolling police van at Zindabazar in the town today, reports UNB.

BDR foils

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BDR sent back another batch of 20 people at 9 am today through Panchpeetha border under Chougacha thana in the district when they were pushed into Bangladesh by BSF earlier in the morning.

All these persons were Bangla-speaking Indian citizens, according to witnesses.

Eyewitnesses said that the BSF had brought large numbers of people to Boyra and Moshampur borders opposite Kabilpur and Kalia under Chougacha thana for deportation to Bangladesh, but the BDR foiled all the attempts so far.

When contacted, Commanding Officer of the BDR, Jessore, Lt. Col Bazul Haq told The Daily Star that his men along the border were always alert to resist the 'Operation Push Back' by India.

Newsprint

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newsprint plant was aggravated as the government had not released the Taka 23.36 crore subsidy allocated in the budgets of 1990-91 and 1991-92.

Production costs jumped at the mill as the price of gewa wood was increased from only 6.25 paisa per cft to Taka six per cft at the extraction point in July this year.

Tariff value on chemicals used in the newsprint mills was also increased in this year's budget, thus forcing BCIC to refix the selling price of newsprint last month from Taka 18,000 per tonne to Taka 19,800, the Corporation source said.

He pointed out that the private sector industrial units located in the North Bengal region received a subsidy of Taka 2,814 per tonne of furnace oil while the Khulna Newsprint Mills was denied this subsidy.

Moreover, he added, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation Exports furnace oil at between Taka 3,000 and Taka 3,900 per tonne while it charges the newsprint plant Taka 7,693 per tonne, which he termed "irrational".

On the government subsidy to the mills, he noted that it was regularly allocated in the budgets of previous years. From 1981 to 1987, the government provided a subsidy of Taka 3,000 per tonne of newsprint produced at the mills while it was increased to Taka 3,590 per tonne during 1987-88 and 1988-89.

Editor : S. M. Ali
Executive Editor : Mahfuz Anam

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Tapan Chandra Pal and Mani ruzzaman Selim on Thursday last.

Hasina alleged that the BNP government has resorted to repressive measures on its political opponents. The political leaders and workers who made significant contributions in the anti-Ershad movement are facing arrest and harassment by the ruling party, she said.

The opposition leader demanded release of the arrested Chhatra League leaders and withdrawal of 'false' cases against them.

AL may name city committee office-bearers today

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League is likely to name the office-bearers of its Dhaka city unit today (Monday), party insiders said.

Mohammad Hanif and Mohammad Hossain Chowdhury Maya Bir Bikram were the most prospective president and general secretary candidates respectively of the city executive committee, they said.

Fatuzziddin Mia would be appointed the organising secretary, the sources added.

If announced today, the names of the executive body will be made public more than half a month after the unit's council session.

The session took place on September 16 but formation of the executive committee remained pending because of the party's national council.

The subject committee members of the AL Dhaka city unit during the council session entrusted Awami League President Sheikh Hasina with the responsibility of forming the executive body.

Hasina after two days of interview with the leaders had finalised the names of the office-bearers, sources said.

However, talking to The Daily Star Sunday, Awami League General Secretary Zilur Rahman said that the names of the new office-bearers of AL city unit would be announced "as soon as it is finalised".

Meanwhile, the party has dropped the idea of dividing the greater Dhaka city into two units and forming separate executive committees, sources said.

Awami League insiders said that the party had also decided to form thana committees in Dhaka city. The thana committees would remain immediately above the ward committees in the party structure, they added.

JS session

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A bill seeking establishment of an independent secretariat for parliament suiting to the needs of an accountable parliamentary democracy is expected to come up before the House for approval. Besides another bill seeking separation of the judiciary from the executive is also expected to come up during the coming session.

The business Advisory Council which is expected to meet soon decide the schedule and duration of the coming session.

Meanwhile, the Jatiya Sangsad Secretariat is taking up all preparations to hold the autumn session smoothly.

The parliamentary standing committees on different ministries are being held almost every day on the eve of the coming session.

Meanwhile, parliament members started submitting their notices on urgent matters of public interest and questions to the parliament secretariat since President Abdur Rahman Biswas summoned the session on September 23. So far the parliament secretariat has received about 2,000 questions, and 4,000 notices on resolutions, general discussion and adjournment motions.

The subject matters of the notices seeking general discussion and adjournment motions are on the Indian attempt to push back Bengali speaking people to Bangladesh, attempt on the life of Workers Party member Rashed Khan Menon MP, Anti-terrorism Ordinance and the recovery of unauthorised arms from the office of Freedom Party.

On the opening day, a five-member panel of chairman would be elected and obituary references moved.

He recalled that Bangladesh had spoken of the need to raise the level of South Asian consciousness when Madam Prime Minister addressed the Colombo summit. This we must do even though we have certain asymmetries in size, population, resources, and levels of development.

President Premadasa recalled that at the Colombo summit the leaders had reaffirmed full respect for the principle of sovereign equality, independence and territorial integrity of all states. We have agreed to adhere to the principles of the non-use of force, the peaceful settlement of disputes and non interference in each other's internal affairs, he said.



Flanked by President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia President and Madam Ranasinghe Premadasa at the formal reception at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

Premadasa : Trade treaty

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basic needs of food, clothing and shelter. The Dal-Bhat approach, is an important aspect of the study being undertaken by the SAARC Commission on Poverty Alleviation.

The Sri Lankan President said Bangladesh had drawn special attention to the most vulnerable in our society — women and children. "These are groups you have correctly described in Colombo as those liable to be" by-passed by economic growth. Your efforts in your own country to bring women into the main stream of development is an inspiration to us all in SAARC.

He said with regard to children, our ministers have been able to meet in Colombo at the SAARC conference on children in South Asia to adopt a declaration that presents a regional strategy for the survival protection and development of children in our sub-continent.

President Premadasa said following detailed studies, SAARC has worked to finalise a draft treaty that would establish a South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) by 1997, or earlier.

We are hopeful that at the Dhaka summit the treaty could be signed. This would be the first major step towards an eventual economic community in South Asia.

He stressed the need for looking closer also at the feasibility of a payments unit for regional trade and commercial exchanges. This would further regional economic cooperation and protect the interests of South Asia.

He said the Colombo summit had envisaged regional self-reliance as helping to mitigate adverse consequences of unfavourable international developments operating against South Asia. Yet self-reliance need not signify an isolation approach. Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and indeed all countries of South Asia pursue extra-regional economic and commercial relations.

He said a regional approach by SAARC to appropriate international and regional organisations has potential as well. Such relationships would not jeopardise our own solidarity, instead, carefully promoted, such cooperation would help our countries with essential resources, both financial and technological, to supplement our own. Sri Lanka has been mandated to report to the Dhaka summit of the possibilities of such relationships.

President Premadasa said SAARC has also been able, following the Colombo summit to establish an identity for the South Asian region in international fora. At the recently held UN conference on environment and development, South Asian states presented a joint position on environmental issues of common concern to us.

He suggested that this approach should continue in other international gatherings and on other issues. Where we have a common purpose to project, or a common position to protect, "I am certain that under the chairmanship of Bangladesh, the important process of consultation and coordination will be carried forward."

The officials said 11 Pakistani and three Indian troops had been killed in the skirmishes at the Pallanwala area since Wednesday.

Three civilians, alleged to be Muslim militants infiltrating into the Muslim-majority state, claimed by India and Pakistan, were killed in the crossfire in the sporadic gunfire exchanges between the two armies during the period.

Indian Agriculture Minister Balram Jakhari and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is from Kashmir, after visiting Pallanwala told reporters here today that New Delhi had informed Islamabad of "continued provocations" on the Kashmir border.

The two ministers, who came from New Delhi for a visit and were shown on state television visiting some 5,000 refugees from the affected area, however, did not elaborate.

A state government official in the meantime said that local authorities in Kashmir's nine border districts had taken steps as a precaution to restrict movement of residents

Bank holiday tomorrow

The Bangladesh Bank and all other scheduled banks will remain closed tomorrow on account of Durga Puja. Bijoja Dashami, the concluding session of the greatest Hindu festival, will be observed on the day, reports UNB.

ing excellent relationship between the two countries. Begum Zia hoped that the present visit of the Sri Lankan President would add new depth and dimension to the close ties between the two countries. "The visit will, I am sure, also enable us to harness our collective strength to make SAARC more vibrant, relevant and closer to the needs and aspirations of our peoples," she said.

The Prime Minister said as partners in SAARC, the seven countries could justifiably take pride in giving concrete shape to a vision of regional cooperation in South Asia which not only bind the nations together in one spirit but also caused tangible actions. She said since the first SAARC summit in Dhaka, the seven nations had jointly made great strides in giving SAARC an institutional shape. We have also begun to move forward from mere intent to concrete actions through pursuit of specific programmes in a large number of agreed areas, she said.

The Prime Minister said the SAARC countries were now poised for higher level of cooperation on among the seven countries. She said the prime task for the SAARC countries is to determine the precise shape and direct on of the activities during the SAARC's second circle which is to begin from the next SAARC summit in Dhaka.

Begum Zia said the seventh SAARC summit in Dhaka would have a paramount task to set clear goals and priorities for the future for South Asia to provide tangible benefits to the teeming millions of the area.

The Prime Minister said Bangladesh and Sri Lanka shared identical views on many international and regional matters. Together both the countries stand firm in the support for establishment of a world order based on equality and justice. Begum Zia said adding "together we have stood for the peaceful resolution of all international problems, for meaningful and effective disarmament and for upholding equitable rules and principles in the conduct of international relations," she said.

Begum Zia said, "we were never hesitant in extending support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to have their own state in their homeland, for the abolition of

apartheid and for the peaceful resolution of all regional conflicts.

The Prime Minister said in the economic sphere the two countries were engaged in a common struggle against many challenges facing the country, including alleviating poverty developing human resources and protecting environment. Both in the United Nations and in other multilateral fora, we have firmly identified ourselves with the positions taken by developing countries in matters of trade, finance and development cooperation.

Begum Zia also mentioned the foundation of greater bilateral cooperation between the two countries in economic, social and cultural spheres.

Begum Zia hoped that the visit of President Premadasa would provide opportunity to review the whole range of relations of the two countries.

The Prime Minister said the visit of President Premadasa was auspicious and timely. She said, "she still remembered the skillful and dynamic manner in which you, Mr President, conducted our proceedings during the sixth SAARC summit in Colombo."

She said the last summit marked a definite watershed in the progress of SAARC. She lauded dedication with which the Sri Lankan President had been discharging yet important responsibilities of SAARC Chairman.

The banquet was attended, among others, by ministers, diplomats, high civil and military officials.

India reinforcing troops on Kashmir border

JAMMU, India, Oct 4: India has begun reinforcing troops on a Kashmir border area with Pakistan after 14 soldiers of the two countries died there in skirmishes in the past week, defence officials here said today, reports AFP.

They said the decision was prompted by alleged heavy Pakistani troops movement across the Pallanwala area in Jorian Sector of the border, some 60 kms (35 miles) from Jammu, the winter capital of the northern state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The officials said 11 Pakistani and three Indian troops had been killed in the skirmishes at the Pallanwala area since Wednesday.

Three civilians, alleged to be Muslim militants infiltrating into the Muslim-majority state, claimed by India and Pakistan, were killed in the crossfire in the sporadic gunfire exchanges between the two armies during the period.

The Midnight File

Israeli cargo jet explodes in air

AMSTERDAM (Netherlands), Oct 4: An Israeli El Al cargo jet exploded in the air Sunday night on the approach to Schiphol airport, showering flaming debris over a wide area in a suburb of Amsterdam, the air traffic control tower reported. The explosion occurred at about 6:45 pm (1745 GMT) above the suburb of Weesp. TV and the ANP national news agency reported. It was not clear how many people were aboard the jet. No further details were given.

More relief flights reach Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Oct 4: Four more relief flights reached Sarajevo Sunday, raising hope that an international airlift can resume to help thousands facing possible starvation in the besieged Bosnian capital. US Air Force Capt Mike Rein of the Command Information Bureau at Rhein Main Air Base near Frankfurt, said a C-130 transport plane from the base landed at Sarajevo at 8:00 am (0700 GMT) and unloaded 23,640 pounds (10,708 kg) of prepared military meals known as Meals Ready to Eat, or MREs, reports AP.

Mizan blasts PTI report on Ershad

By Staff Correspondent

Acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury Sunday blasted the PTI report from Washington on Ershad's funneling out money.

He said that the report was intended "to mislead the people before the by-elections in two constituencies, Gouripur and Rajbari".

In a statement Chowdhury said that the former Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed had appointed Fairfax to investigate the matter but that so far the agency had not submitted any report on it.

Moreover, he said, the government in the last two years involved the JP chairman in many cases, but there were no charges on his transferring money to foreign banks. In this case the government failed to establish any such charge.

He urged the people of the two constituencies not to be misled by such report.

Indemnity

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party policy-makers whether they would come forward to helping the passage of the bill or not," the member said.

A draft report on the issue by the committee has long been pending due to the lack of a precise BNP position on the issue, the committee member further said.

Meanwhile, a large number of AL leaders while talking on the possibility of a consensus said that the government would not help passage of the bill unless the AL succeeded in pressing its demand through a mass movement.

Sources in the BNP, however, said that the party was yet to decide specifically its stance on the issue.

The committee members of the Treasury bench may seek more time in the October 12 meeting for further evaluation of the issue, sources said.

World Habitat Day today

The World Habitat Day is being observed today in the country alike other countries round the globe with the motto: Shelter for Sustainable Development, reports UNB.

Elaborate programmes have been chalked out to mark the day.

The theme of this year's World Habitat Day is "Shelter for Sustainable Development", chosen in the context of current year's concern for the environment.

Indian bandits

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45, wife of Yasin Ali, was gunned down while resisting the dacoits. She was shot in the chest and abdomen. Yasin (75) and his son Mominul were knifed.

The trespassers fired 8 gunshots — four rounds at Jhalangi and another four at Sritrampur — during the midnight raid.

At Sritrampur, the invaders were gheraoed by the villagers when they tried to break into the residence of Berek. Three people were injured in a clash here. The injured were named Shamsul, Mojibur and Solaiman.

The gunmen sneaked out of the cordon and were seen escorted by the Indian border guards on the other side of the frontier, the villagers said.

All five injured were sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

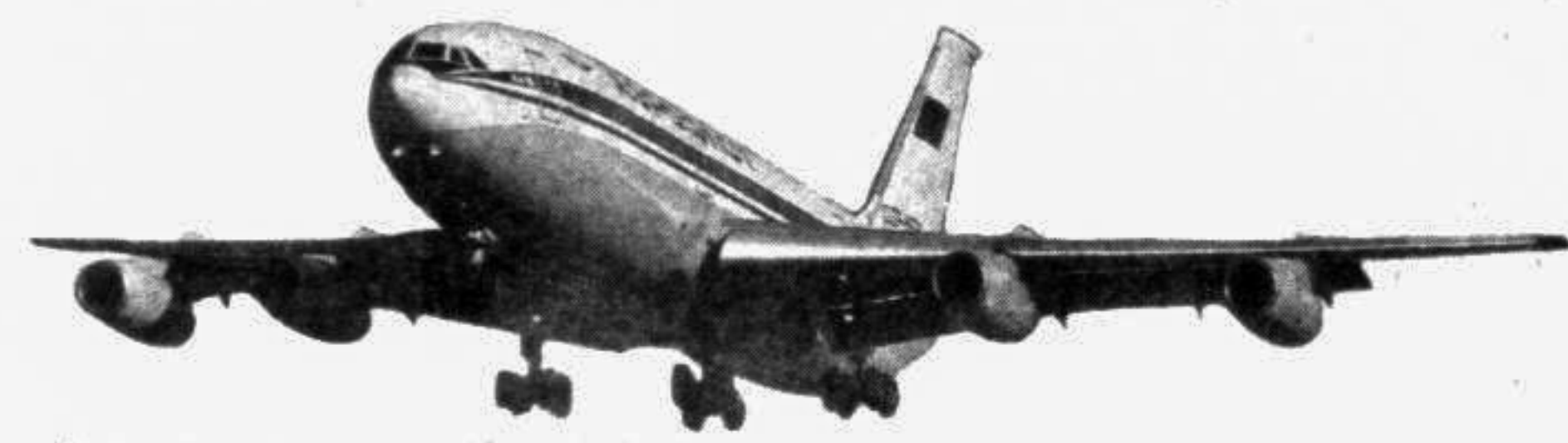
Meanwhile, a flag meeting was reportedly held today between Bangladesh Rifles and the Indian BSF near the Jhalangi border to take stock of the situation.

The Bangladesh side at the meeting lodged a protest against last night's incident. BSF was said to have assured that they would investigate it.

A tense situation was prevailing in the area. The Superintendent of Police visited the scene today.

A case has been filed with Patgram police.

Warmest felicitations to the Government and friendly people of the Republic of Korea on their National Foundation Day



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☐ Dorga Gate, Sylhet, Tel: 0821-7304