

PM iterates help for increasing production

TEKNAF, Nov 28: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia reiterated her government's determination to give support and every possible assistance to all efforts of increasing production to attain the targets of self-reliance and progress, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister was addressing a huge public meeting at the local high school ground. The meeting was also addressed by Livestock and Fisheries Minister Abdullah Al Noman, Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam, Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan, Shahjahan Chowdhury MP, Selima Rahman MP and Rosy Kabir MP.

Begum Zia said the government would carry forward its ongoing development programmes to give the country a prestigious position in the world community by attaining self-reliance in all sectors.

The Prime Minister said the nation had to achieve success in its educational programmes achieving targets to attain success in other sectors of socio-economic life.

Begum Zia called upon all to send their children to schools to make them educated and conscious. Otherwise, she said, all our development would go in vain.

The Prime Minister said during the nine years' autocratic rule the farming community was affected very badly. She said her government had taken up a number of programmes for the improvement of the lot of the farmers. As a result of this reformative steps the production had increased in the agriculture sector manifold, she said.

The Prime Minister underlined the need for motivating the farmers for crop diversification to attain self-reliance in foodgrains apart from rice. Begum Zia said we have to reduce our dependency on powdered milk to avoid spending of huge amount of foreign currency in the sector. She said her government wants to import high breed cows to set up dairy farms.

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JS stalemate

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of so many lives," the Prime Minister said.

The question of belittling the Jatiya Sangsad on my part does not arise," Begum Zia said. "I feel most proud of myself as a parliament member." Leader of the House said amidst thunderous cheers from the Treasury Bench.

The Prime Minister also observed that the people expect the JS to function effectively for the sake of changing their fates. "And this is what I always want to mean," the Prime Minister added.

Meanwhile, the Opposition entered the House five minutes after the Prime Minister had begun to speak. She congratulated the Opposition for their return and continued her ten-minute speech.

The Speaker, told the House, after the clarification of her November 7 speech, now there is no need for the discussion on the privilege motion against the Leader of the House.

The Speaker, in this connection, informed the House that he had ruled out the discussion on the motion under the negotiation reached by the concerned parties.

Abdus Samad Azad then took the floor to tell the House that the confusion created following the Prime Minister's November 7 speech was now over.

"From now on, we hope to work together to resolve any problem in the JS", Samad Azad concluded.

Earlier, Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali told the House that he had mediated the negotiation between the parties with a view to performing his duty as a Speaker, to carry on the practice of parliamentary democracy.

During the negotiation, the BNP team members included Barrister Salam Talukder, Colonel (Retd) Oll Ahmed, Shahidul Haque Zamal MP and Mohammad Ali Jinnah MP.

The Opposition delegation included Tofael Ahmed, Sajeda Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim, A K M Jahangir of the AL and Suranjit Sengupta and Rashed Khan Menon.

2 get life-term for hijacking

CHITTAGONG, Nov 28: The second Additional Sessions and Anti-Terrorism Tribunal Judge Syed Enayet Ullah here today awarded life-term to two persons on charge of terrorism and hijacking, reports BSS.

2 die, 20 hurt in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent
One person was killed, a housewife reportedly committed suicide and another 20 were injured in separate incidents in the city during the last two days.

Nazma Akhter, wife of Md Nizam reportedly killed herself by taking poison at her residence at Humayun Road, Mohammadpur, yesterday morning.

Md Shahidul Islam, 20, was seriously injured when an auto-rickshaw ran over him at Airport Road Saturday night.

He succumbed to his injury at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

Police seized the vehicle and arrested the driver Mohammed Hossain.

At least 10 persons were injured when an auto-tempo collided with a speeding truck at Kajla, Demra at about 2 pm yesterday.

In another accident at least 10 persons were injured when a minibus overturned at Kazipara at about 12:30 am Saturday.

Six victims were admitted to the DMCH.

They are Mohammad Monwar Zahan, 30, Crime Reporter of Dainik Dinkal, Mohammad Haider Ali, 25, Khokon, 25, Nayem, 40, Mostofa, 30 and Nasim, 25.

Mohammad Ikbal Hossain, 19, a second year student of Kabi Nazrul Government College was severely beaten up by miscreants at North Basabo.

10 hurt as JP procession lathicharged in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Nov 28: At least 10 people were injured when police lathicharged a Jatiya Party (JP) procession in the city this evening.

The JP brought out the procession protesting the arrest of seven of its activists midnight last night.

Witnesses said, a clash erupted when the JP rally came face to face with another procession brought out by the Chhatra Dal, student wing of the BNP near the Picture Palace.

Shares of oil, gas cos

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gas fields stands well over a hundred crore taka. Analysts observed the country's stock market does not have the capacity to absorb large number of shares. It has been hinted that the shares could be floated in small numbers, in phases.

In the sub-continent, gas fields are already on the stock list in the Karachi Stock Market. There are also moves in India contemplating similar measures.

"The transparency of the companies will be ensured once they go to the stock market," the Finance Minister claimed.

"But we need a stable political situation to attract public interest in shares. We have to shun past practices in politics and induce new thinking for the economy."

Meanwhile, the country's stock market witnessed a shock in the share price index following the crisis in the political arena with a 1.16 points decline in the All Share DSE index to 370.39116.

"If tomorrow looks depressing, the capital market would certainly reflect that move," Imtiaz Husain commented. "Along with the political situation, the infusion of new issues have also contributed to the fall."

There are 17 gas fields in the country with net recoverable gas reserves of 10.64 trillion cubic feet. This is projected to be depleted by the year 2010 with an annual increase in demand of ten per cent.

These gas fields are under the Bangladesh Gas Fields Ltd and Sylhet Gas Fields Ltd. The Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co, which supplies gas to various parts of the country, had a total revenue to over Tk 600 crore last year.

Recently, the government



A member of the visiting Chinese acrobatics team performing a feat at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Zhang calls on Noor Uddin

The visiting Chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of China, General Zhang Wannian, called on Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday morning, reports UNB.

Zhang and Khan discussed matters of mutual interest during the meeting at the Army Headquarters, according to an ISPR press release.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Jhang Xujiang was present.

Zhang also called on Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaiminul Islam at the Naval Headquarters at Banani and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Earlier on his arrival at the Cantonment, General Zhang went to Shikha Anirban, the Eternal Flame, and placed floral wreath in memory of the members of the armed forces who laid down their lives during the War of Liberation in 1971.

Zhang then went to the Senakunja where he was presented with a guard of honour by a smart contingent of army. He took salute and inspected the guard. He also planted a sapling there.

General Zhang Wannian arrived here Saturday night on a five-day goodwill visit.

Hasina discusses situation with lawyers

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday discussed with some leading lawyers the situation of the country, reports UNB.

Referring to the country's political situation, Hasina said lawyers could play an important role to create public awareness for protecting the hard-earned democracy and giving it an institutional shape.

Democracy must have a firm footing to make parliament effective and to uphold its prestige, she said.

The opposition leader called upon the lawyers to unite and raise their voice for repealing the Indemnity Ordinance and the Anti-Terrorism Act, separation of the judiciary from the executive and establishing rule of law in the country.

Former Chief Justice Kemal Uddin Hossain, Justice KM Sobhan, SR Pal, Barrister Shakwat Ali Khan, Barrister Rafiqul Haq, Justice Abdul Malek, Barrister KS Nabi, Barrister Mozammel Hossain and Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder MP, were among others, present in the meeting.

5 CCC employees suspended

CHITTAGONG, Nov 28: Five employees of the Chittagong City Corporation were suspended for their negligence of duties and involvement in corruption, reports UNB.

The action was taken after Mayor Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin detected their negligence and corruption during a surprise visit of different sections of the corporation today (Sunday).

The suspended employees are Section Assistant of the Licence Division Nurul Islam, Sayed Noor of the Accounts Section, peon Zafarullah, guards Obaidullah and Abdul Malek.

Departmental proceedings were started against them, sources said.

36-hour hartal in Sylhet from today

SYLHET, Nov 28: A 36-hour hartal is scheduled to begin in four districts of greater Sylhet from 6 am tomorrow (Monday) to press for setting up of an administrative division in Sylhet, reports UNB.

The Sylhet Division Implementation and Greater Sylhet Development Action Council has called for the strike in Sylhet, Habiganj, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj districts.

A big torch procession was brought out in the town in the evening today (Sunday) in support of their programme.

JCD-BCL clash at Bheramara: 20 injured

KUSHTIA, Nov 28: At least 20 students were injured, seven seriously, in a clash between the activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and the pro-Awami League Chhatra League at Bheramara today, police sources said, reports UNB.

The clash erupted when a Chhatra League procession heading towards the district town for joining a conference there, came under attack, allegedly by a group of the JCD activists.

Both groups used hockey sticks and other lethal weapons in the two hour long clash.

Additional police force from Kushtia rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

The Midnight File

Hekmatyar threatens to attack president's palace

KABUL, Nov 28: Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar threatened today to mobilise all his forces to attack the president's palace in Kabul, accusing President Burhanuddin Rabbani of planning to bomb his headquarters. Hekmatyar said in a statement that Rabbani's military commander Ahmad Shah Masood planned to launch air raids on the prime minister's base southeast of Kabul and positions in the southern suburbs of the war-shattered capital, reports Reuters.

Israeli choppers raid Palestinian camp in Lebanon

AIN HELWE (Lebanon), Nov 28: Israeli helicopters raided today the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain Helwe near the southern Lebanon port city of Sidon. An AFP photographer said the helicopters fired several missiles sowing panic in Ain Helwe, the largest Palestinian camp in Lebanon with 80,000 residents.

Killings in Kashmir condemned

ISLAMABAD, Nov 28: Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, condemning the killings in Kashmir, accused India today of violating the spirit of a recent agreement for bilateral talks, reports AFP.

The Indian government "has no regard" for the spirit of the agreement and the "understanding" that there would be a "tangible reduction in human rights violations to create the right atmosphere", she said.

But she did not say whether the situation would impede the talks scheduled between the two countries in January to discuss the Kashmir dispute and other bilateral issues.

"I have been deeply shocked and dismayed by the brutal acts of repression that have been perpetrated against the people of Jammu and Kashmir over the last two days," Bhutto said in a statement.

She said a "large number of Kashmiris" were killed and "scores of houses burnt" in the town of Sopore in a so-called "cordon and search operation".

Reports from Srinagar put the death toll in Saturday's clash between Muslim militants and Indian troops in Sopore at 15.

Bhutto urged the Indian government to remove the "security cordon" around the Hazratbal Mosque, release Kashmiri leaders and end the "atrocities".

"We hope all those countries which favoured a dialogue between Pakistan and India for a peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute will use their influence with India to create the necessary conditions for meaningful talks," she said.

India must allow the international media and humanitarian relief and human rights organisations to monitor the situation in Kashmir, the Pakistani Prime Minister said.

BAF officers

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President Bhaswa placed wreaths on the coffins of the deceased BAF officers.

Wing Commander Shahidul Hoque, Squadron Leader Syed Abdur Rahman, Squadron Leader A K M Shamsul Islam and Pilot Officer Mohammad Masudur Rahman were killed when two training aircraft, crashed during a rehearsal of graduation parade.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in a message of condolence expressed deep shock at the death of the BAF officers.

The Prime Minister, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Defence, said that the death of the promising officers engaged in the defence of the country caused an irreparable loss to the BAF as well as to the nation.

PM's speech

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adding, "people gave us the mandate this time and we should carry it out."

She said that on Saturday people observed the death anniversary of Shaheed Dr Milton who sacrificed his life for democracy and to oust the nine-year autocratic rule.

We are committed to the blood of the martyrs to save democracy, the Prime Minister added.

After her statement the Speaker announced that as the Leader of the House clarified her position and both sides reached an understanding, so Monday's scheduled discussion on PM's reported comment is no longer necessary.

The Speaker earlier declared redundant the counter privilege motion of Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia against the Leader of the Opposition, which was set for discussion on Tuesday.

Reciprocating the sentiment, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad expressed the hope that the Leader of the House will pay more attention to make the House more effective.

He said the Leader of the House is not of any particular party but of the whole House.