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**PHILIPS**

## Japan urged to invest more in Bangladesh

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina requested the Japanese government to expand its economic and technical cooperation and invest more in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

She made the request when Ambassador of Japan Yoshikazu Kaneko paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister at her office yesterday morning.

The ambassador conveyed greetings of the Japanese Prime Minister to Sheikh Hasina.

He recalled his tenure of work in Dhaka during the period of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Prime Minister said Japan is one of the best friends of Bangladesh. Diplomatic ties between the two countries were established 25 years back. Now economic friendship will start and take a new turn in the days ahead, she said.

The ambassador said the pending economic and technical cooperation would start now and assured full cooperation and support to the present government.

He said political stability was restored after the June 12 election and now a congenial atmosphere was prevailing in the country for economic activities.

Another report adds Russian Ambassador Dr Eduard S. Shevchenko paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest.

Meanwhile, Bjorn Stern, Ambassador of Sweden, paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

## Khaleda

From Page 1  
stronger during the BNP period, a fact which received due appreciation of the World Bank, the IMF and other world bodies.

She said despite the evil designs of the then opposition to ruin the country's economy through hartal, blockade and destructive activities, the BNP had left the strongest economic base in the 25-year history of the country.

The leader of the Opposition renewed her allegation that the election to 7th parliament was not free and fair, and the victory of people was snatched away.

"People's verdict has not been reflected in the June 12 election," she said, alleging that a particular party was announced winner in the election.

Begum Zia criticised the government for trying to revive BKSAL in the name of national consensus and said there is nothing called a government of national consensus in the democratic world or in the constitution.

Referring to the February 15 polls, the BNP chairperson said it was held only for the continuation of constitutional process and democratic trend in the country, and to make way for a non-party government to hold the election.

Begum Zia listed some development programmes which were undertaken during the BNP government. She particularly mentioned the education programmes, including compulsory primary education and food for education.

The meetings were addressed by MA Jinnah, Golam Akbar Khandaker, former deputy mayor of Chittagong, Dastagir Chowdhury and former Vice President of Chittagong University Central, Students Union M Nazimuddin.

Later, Begum Zia left for Feni where she will stay during the night.

## Home Ministry plan

From Page 1  
cess, he will deputate one official under him.

He said steps will be taken to ensure that the police do not "carelessly" prepare cases against hideous criminals who often slip through the hand of the law because of "loosely knitted cases" against them.

"In general, the system should be changed," he added. The police forces might have to be increased, the Home Minister said. There is one police man for 1300 people in Bangladesh whereas in the neighbouring countries the number is one for 600 to 700 people." Maj (rtd) Rafiq pointed out. In one thana, only 25 policemen carry out all duties. This is not adequate," he observed.

According to the Home Ministry's plan, the government will pay special attention to the violent activities of the underground political party, Sarbajit Party.

"We are reviewing whether the Sarbajits should be treated with greater importance. Mid-term and long-term solutions are being examined," the minister said.

"Traditionally, the south-western part of the country has been a breeding ground for

During the meeting, they discussed matters of common interest with particular emphasis on enhancing economic and trade relations between the two countries.

The Prime Minister thanked the people of Sweden for their support and help in Bangladesh's War of Liberation in 1971.

## Ershad's release on parole: Legal aspects under study

The Ministry of Home Affairs is examining the legal aspects of releasing former President HM Ershad on parole before parliament session, reports UNB.

This was stated by Home Minister Maj (rtd) Rafiqul Islam BU at a press briefing yesterday.

He said the ministry received Sunday an application seeking the release of the jailed Jatiya Party chief, who is an MP.

To a question, the minister also disclosed that his ministry was reviewing the arms licences given during the Khaleda Zia government. Licences of those who would be found ineligible for a licensed gun be forfeited, he said.

## Some changes in judiciary

The government has brought some changes in the judiciary, said an official handout in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Mohammad Ali Khan, the District Judge of Pabna, has been appointed Deputy Secretary (Opinion) at the law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry.

He has been replaced by Ansar Uddin Sikder, who was the Divisional Special Judge of Dhaka.

A K Mohammad Ali, the District Judge of Bhola, has been appointed the Divisional Special Judge of Dhaka.

Khademul Islam Mohammad Belal, a judge (Additional District Judge) of the Anti-Terrorism Tribunal-2 of Dhaka, has replaced A K Mohammad Ali.

## 2 shot dead

From Page 1  
area Sunday evening and did not return home till 10:30 pm. Tuhin's brother said he woke up at 3 am yesterday and found the blood stained body of Tuhin at his room. He immediately called the neighbours and informed the police.

In the FIR, Tuhin's brother said injured Mosharraf told him that one of the gang members called him from his house nearby. Mosharraf told Tuhin's brother that he had a gunshot minutes before the criminals fled away stabbing him.

None was arrested in this connection till last night, police said.

Meanwhile, another young man was shot dead and at least two others were injured in a clash between two local groups at West Rajabazar under Tejaogana thana last night. The rival groups were fighting reportedly over control of the locality.

The deceased was identified as Tipu, 28, a contractor. The injured persons aged between 25 and 30 who are yet to be identified were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), police said.

Police from Tejaogana thana rushed to the spot. They were investigating the incident.



Hindu opposition activists clash with police during a protest demonstration yesterday in New Delhi against the step of hike in the prices of petroleum products. — AFP/UNB photo

## Magsaysay Award for T N Seshan

NEW DELHI, July 8: With rare understated modesty, India's outspoken Chief Election Commissioner TN Seshan accepted a top international award today for his six-year campaign against corruption in elections, reports AP.

"I accept the award with humility," said Seshan, 63, the recipient of prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award by the Philippines.

The award, modeled after the Nobel Peace Prize, was given to Seshan in recognition to his crusade to clean India's election system.

Past elections have been tainted by scandals involving vote fraud, extravagant campaign spending and widespread charges of vote-buying. Seshan's success came despite efforts by government and lawmakers to curb his powers in 1993.

Politicians and election candidates unhappy with Seshan's hard hitting criticism, say he overstepped his powers and at one time proposed removing him from office.

Buoyed by his newfound popularity among many grateful voters, Seshan has not ruled out running for political office when he retires from the Election Commission in December.

Unimpressed with India's current political landscape, Seshan said he may run for office with "My own brand of politics, and not what currently passes for politics."

Previous Magsaysay award winner, Kiran Bedi, India's first woman police officer, briefly captured the public's adoration for her campaign to improve New Delhi's notorious Thar prison.

She has since faded into virtual obscurity.

## Jamaat iterates pledge to establish rule of Allah

Ameer of Jamaat-i-Islami, Bangladesh, Prof Golam Azam yesterday reiterated his pledge to continue the struggle to establish rule of Allah and honest people, reports BBS.

Speaking at a conference of the Dhaka City women branch of Jamaat in Alifhah auditorium, Prof Azam said determined efforts would have to be taken to lead our life on the basis of the teachings and values of Islam to free the nation of all social vices like terrorism, murder, rape and drug addiction.

He called for recasting the education system of the country from the primary to the University levels in the light of the teachings and values of Islam and said only by doing this it would be possible to free the society from the curse of social vices.

The chief of Jamaat criticised the action taken by the former caretaker government in reducing marks from 100 to 50 in the curriculum of religious education for classes nine and ten and demanded restoration of the same by cancelling the order of the caretaker government.

"By indulging in such planned acts, causing deterioration of law and order, they may get an excuse to say against our government, but that will be at the cost of peoples' miseries," she added.

"I like to build a terrorism-free society. But, it seems they took the path of conspiracy to create a law and order situation in the country," said Hasina.

The prime minister, who is also chief of the ruling Awami League, recalled that her party had offered to BNP to join her government of 'national consensus'. "But instead of joining us, they gave misleading interpretation to our idea for a national consensus," she added.

Her government's main thrust is on bringing peace in civil life and build a poverty-free nation, Hasina said.

"I will do my best to fulfill the pledges we made to people, one by one," said Hasina, adding "but, you know it very well that we inherited a ruined economy. Due to shortage of fertiliser during the previous government's rule, there was a production shortfall which now caused a shortage food stock."

The Prime Minister noted that her government had to start from 'zero' and it inherited a 'bankrupt economy'.

She said, "I am going to

## Ariel Sharon enters Netanyahu's cabinet

JERUSALEM, July 8: Benjamin Netanyahu, leaving for his first US visit as Israel's prime minister, leapt from a political frying pan into a potential firestorm today with a decision to shooehorn hardliner Ariel Sharon into his cabinet, reports Reuters.

The government's overnight decision to grant Sharon a powerful new ministry averted a cabinet crisis, but was certain to alarm Arab states and Israel's crucial ally Washington, long leery of the burly ex-general's ultra-hawkish policies.

The cabinet has approved the creation of the infrastructure ministry, and the prime minister will present the nomination of Sharon to parliament for approval today at 1600 (1300 GMT), after which he will be sworn-in," Netanyahu spokesman Shai Bazak told agency.

Last week foreign minister David Levy forced Netanyahu's hand with a public vow to quit by the eve of the prime minister's US visit unless a cabinet post were found for Sharon.

State-owned Israel Radio described the specially-tailored new ministry as "rich in spheres of influence and rich in power for the minister-elect Ariel Sharon."

Sharon, 68, a founder of the ruling Likud Party two decades ago, poses a quandary for Netanyahu, who keenly seeks to project a peacemaker image despite his rejection of the US-endorsed formula of trading captured land for peace.

Sharon's plunge into Lebanon in a disastrous invasion in 1982, when he was defence minister, and his later championing of Jewish settlement in the West Bank and Gaza, angered US officials and threatened to disrupt ties between the two allies.

US support is vital to Israel, dependent on 3 billion dollars in annual aid and on advanced weaponry from American defence firms.

During campaigning for the May 29 election which brought him to power, Netanyahu promised to clamp the brakes on US backed peace moves.

At the time, US President Bill Clinton expressed a clear preference for Labour Party incumbent Shimon Peres, but has since pledged to work with Netanyahu to salvage what he can of the peace process.

Analysts expect Netanyahu to offer Clinton conciliatory gestures toward the Palestinians in an attempt to soften the government's rightists edge.

"The prime minister will tell Clinton 'We are not like the Robin-Peres government', but he will also present a package of confidence-building measures," said commentator Emmanuel Rozen.

Among the possible measures are:

— Promising to hold a groundbreaking first meeting with Palestinian president Yasser Arafat in the near future.

— announcing a decision to ease the prolonged, economically crippling closure of the West Bank and Gaza.

— announcing formation of negotiating teams for 'final status' talks with the PLO on Jerusalem and other core issues.

— promising to carry out a long-delayed troop pullout from parts of the still-occupied West Bank flashpoint of Hebron.

— helping Palestinians secure world financial aid.

Sharon has often been at loggerheads with Netanyahu, who once dismissed him as 'a permanent subversive.'

The Foreign Minister, Finance Minister, LGED and Cooperatives Minister and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs were present on the occasion.

Of the 42 members of the Prime Minister's entourage 17 went as official dignitaries while 25 others including some of her relatives went on their own expenses, the state minister for Foreign Affairs told this correspondent.

The relatives include her husband Dr Wazed Mia, younger sister Sheikh Rehana, daughter Putul and son-in-law Mirul.

## One beaten to death in Narayanganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, July 8: A young man was beaten to death by the local people when collecting toll at Amlapara in the town yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rubel 18, son of Dila Mian.

Witnesses said, Rubel was caught when he along with some 10 to 15 armed youths went there yesterday evening allegedly for collecting toll. He was beaten and stabbed on the spot.

Seriously injured Rubel was taken to a local hospital. Later he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died at mid night.

Meanwhile the Office Secretary of Narayanganj city BNP unit Tofazzal Hossain Mridha in a statement claimed that Rubel was a worker of the local Jubo Dal. He alleged that the Awami League activists killed him.

The BNP also submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner of Narayanganj demanding immediate arrest of the persons responsible for the killing.

## 3 killed in road accidents

From our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, July 8: Two persons were killed and 40 others injured in two road accidents in Gopalganj district this morning.

A night coach bound for Khulna from Dhaka met with the accident at Sanga Rampur village on the Gopalganj-Takerhat road.

The bus fell into a road side ditch. Tonzi Alam, 35, died on the spot and 15 persons injured.

Another passenger bus bound for Gopalganj from Kotlipara met with the accident at Bhojorgati village while giving side to another bus. The bus also fell into a road side ditch killing the driver Humayun Kabir, 25, dead on the spot. Another 25 people were injured.

Three injured persons were admitted to Gopalganj Sadar hospital. They are Hanif, 40, Rouf, 35, and Noor Islam 12.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent adds: The crop preservation specialist of Mohimaganj Sugar Mills was killed in a road accident at Gopalganj on the Gobindaganj-Mahimaganj road yesterday. Azam Ali 43, went to Dhaerhat under Palashbari Thana to conduct a training programme of cane growers.

When he was returning to the mills by an auto-rickshaw it suddenly skidded off the road after the driver lost control of the vehicle. The victim fell down on the road and sustained severe injuries. He was removed to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition where he died.

Asked about this, a source concerned said that funds for the well monitors were allocated in the budget of the WARPO.

The WARPO, some sources said, promised to clear the dues to those people upto November 1995, and had planned to pay the rest when its financial condition improved.

## 350 trucks stranded at 2 ferry ghats

SIRAJGANJ, July 8: Some 350 loaded trucks were stranded at Sirajganj and Bhupur ferry ghats yesterday afternoon due to shortage of ferries in this route, reports UNB.

Of the total, about 150 trucks were waiting at Bhupur ghat while the rest queued at Sirajganj.

A large number of trucks carrying pineapples remained stranded at Bhupur. Businessmen said the pineapples would be perished if the trucks are not immediately ferried.

Only two small ferries with the capacity of carrying five vehicles at a time are now being operated between Bhupur and Sirajganj ferry ghats.

BIWTC sources said, two more ferries are expected to be added there to resolve the congestion at Bhupur. But the ferries are yet to come.

## Text books

From Page 1

at the Education Ministry. Minister for Education, Primary and Mass Education, Science and Technology A S H K Sadeq, also attended the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Education Secretary Abdullah Harun Pasha, Secretary, Primary and Mass Education Syed Amirul Mulk and concerned officers.

The meeting coopted Prof Sanjida Khatun of Bangla Department of Dhaka University for smooth functioning of the deliberation.

## 8 on remand

From Page 1

used in the robbery. Armed dacoits hurled bombs and looted Tk 25 lakh from the commercial manager of the SQ Sweater Ltd, when he, along with some other officials of the company, reached the factory gate in a car after drawing the money from the IFIC Bank branch at Motijheel.

## The Midnight File

### 24-hr ultimatum to Chechens to free Russian prisoners

MOSCOW, July 8: The commander of Russian forces in Chechnya gave the leader of the region's separatist rebels a 24-hour deadline today to hand over all their prisoners, Itar-Tass news agency said. In a further sign of mounting tension between the two sides that has strained last month's shaky ceasefire agreement, General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov said he would "take appropriate measures" if Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev did not hand over all his prisoners by 6 pm (1400 GMT) on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

## India takes steps to boost ties with Pakistan

NEW DELHI, July 8: India's new center-left government is ready to open talks to improve relations with arch enemy Pakistan, even if their dispute over Kashmir continues, Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral said today, reports AP.

The government has taken unilateral steps by promising more visas to Pakistani diplomats and opening contacts between journalists, scholars and artists, Gujral told reporters.

"Whether Pakistan finds it possible to respond or not, we will go ahead," Gujral said.

Bilateral relations between India and Pakistan remain very tense in large part because of a decades-old territorial dispute over Kashmir. India and Pakistan have fought two of three wars over Kashmir.

Gujral's comments, however, indicate a willingness on the part of the new Indian government to reduce tension with Pakistan.

Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda has said his five-week-old government wants to solve the Kashmir dispute and forge a new era for the mountainous state by ending six years of direct federal rule.

New Delhi suspended the local Kashmir government in 1989 at the outset of a Muslim-led uprising against Indian rule.

India accuses Pakistan of supporting the Muslim rebels as part of a plan to destabilise the region.

Kashmir was divided between India and Pakistan shortly after the end of British rule over the Asian Subcontinent in 1947.

On Monday, Gowda called a meeting of all national political parties and announced that the government would try to hold local elections in Jammu-Kashmir state by September.

The exact dates would be announced later by the Election Commission.

Gowda earlier said once a popular government was installed in Kashmir he would be willing to discuss political autonomy with the new local assembly.

Official talks between rivals Pakistan and India broke down in early 1994 over Kashmir. Since then, relations have further soured.

Officially, the finance minister asserted that checking the deficit financing will be the main priority goal of the Awami League government.

"I am in the process of examining the total picture, and I hope that I will be able to come up with a budget which would reflect the aspiration of the people," he maintained.

When asked what would be his strategy for export promotion, he said, I will try to encourage export. I am considering proposals for this purpose. But he did not elaborate on the proposals.

Asked whether decisions on devaluation of the currency will be dictated from the finance ministry, Kibria said the existing practice will continue.

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