



Eradicate terrorism from campus: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for eradication of terrorism from the campus for ensuring an atmosphere congenial to the pursuit of knowledge and wisdom, reports UNB.

"Without eradication of vandalism from the campus, the standard of education cannot be enhanced," she told a delegation of the Bangladesh University Council who called on her at her office in the afternoon.

The Prime Minister regretted the deteriorating standard of education in the country. She particularly referred to the Dhaka University, saying that once regarded as the Oxford of the East, it had failed to maintain the standard.

Reiterating the pledge of her government to uproot terrorism from all level of national life, Hasina said the terrorists who had vitiated the academic atmosphere would be severely dealt with whoever he might be.

The terrorists have no class or colour — they are anti-social elements," the Prime Minister said, adding that no such elements would be tolerated on the campus for the

greater interest of the nation.

The Prime Minister sought cooperation from all quarters, including the university administration, to stop arms display in the sacred arena of education.

She said the students should in no way be used as tools of politics. This trend would not be allowed under any circumstances, the PM added.

Led by Council president and Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Prof Mohammad Shahjahan, the delegation apprised the Prime Minister of various aspects of the university situation.

They called upon the Prime Minister to extend her cooperation and assistance in ending the session jam and halting brain drain. They also informed her about various problems being faced by the university authorities in administrative and academic affairs.

The Prime Minister assured them that the problems would be looked into properly and action taken.

Vice-Chancellors of all universities of the country were present at the meeting.



Finance Minister SAMS Kibria (2nd-R) exchanging views with editors and senior journalists of different national dailies and news agencies at the State Guest House Padma in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Finance Minister

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The rest was for trade financing. The meeting was primarily designed as a pre-budget consultation aiming at eliciting opinion from the press. But the finance minister concentrated on failures of the BNP government.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Saeed, Bangladesh Bank Governor Khoshdel Alam, Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan, ERD Secretary Lutfulhossain Majid, Chairman of NBR Dr Sadaat Hussain, Banking Division Secretary Dr Shamsul Huda and senior officials of the ministry of finance were present.

The finance minister contradicting the much-boasted macroeconomic stability in the BNP period, was critical of heavy domestic borrowing by the BNP government which, he said, was seriously burdening the revenue budget in the form of interest payment.

Interest on domestic debt during the last budget (1995-96) amounted to Tk 1,040 crore. With payment of foreign debt, amount for debt servicing totalled Tk 1,700 crore, about 18 per cent of the total revenue budget.

"Managing such a high amount of interest is beyond the control of any finance minister. The previous government kept the people in the dark on its domestic borrowing... How could one claim success in macroeconomic management after all these?"

The minister observed high domestic borrowing had been behind recent rise in the inflation rate which peaked to about 6 per cent at the end of last year. Kibria said he would work to bring it down, below 5 per cent.

On the issue of agriculture subsidy, the minister said the government would decide on the point judiciously keeping in mind the resource availability.

He said he had identified the areas of support but indicated that those would not be spent out in the budget.

"Agriculture sector needs support to grow. But we do not want to work in haste," he said.

Mugging in Khulna

Two arrested from Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, July 13: Kotwali police yesterday arrested two persons wanted in connection with a mugging case in Khulna and recovered Taka 99,500 from their possession.

Khulna police had earlier informed the Sylhet police that two persons involved in mugging Tk. 29 lakh in Khulna on July 6 had been staying in Sylhet. Kotwali Police immediately went into action and arrested Masud and his cousin Jewel, Tk. 99,500 was later recovered from their possession.

The arrested person hail village Ghola under Chitalmar of Bagerhat district, police said. They will be sent to Khulna tomorrow.

Budget

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GDP with about 32 per cent share, he added.

He said there will be provisions in the budget for subsidy to agriculture. "The exact amount or ways of providing it is being worked out."

Incentives will be given to the export sector, he said adding, "the aim of the government will be to maintain a healthy balance of trade."

The finance minister also said tariff anomalies will be further reduced. About new taxation, the minister did not say anything categorically. But replying to a question he said without taxation how would the government collect necessary revenue for moving the economy forward.

He said the budget will also aim at reducing deficit financing by curtailing government's expenditure and following a non-inflationary growth strategy.

Market capitalisation at CSE increases by 400pc in 9 months

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG July 13: The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) witnessed about 400 per cent increase in market capitalisation amid a boom in share trading in only nine months since its commissioning, according to sources in the CSE.

The CSE which started functioning on October 10, 1995 with a market capitalisation of Taka 807 crore and 30 listed companies, recorded a market capitalisation of Taka 3,941 crore with 72 listed companies on July 11, the sources said. At least 10 more companies are in the pipeline to be listed shortly.

The index on the first day of trading was 385 which rose to 438 on July 11. During the past one week, the average daily turnover exceeded Taka one crore. It was around Taka four to five lakh per day three months ago, the CSE sources said.

Sylhet JCD joint convener held

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, July 13: The joint convener of the Sylhet District unit of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, was arrested today. He was arrested when he went to the Magistrate court to appear in case in which he had been in bail.

The district convener in-charge Wahiduzzaman, joint-convener Kamrul Hassan Shahin and leaders of the town unit of JCD in separate statement demanded immediate release of all the arrested leaders and workers of the organisation.

Everybody expects that government officers and employees remain their to cooperate with the government," said the circular, signed by Cabinet Secretary Ayubur Rahman.

"Although a government is replaced by another under democratic norms and rules, government officers and employees remain their to carry on government's function for its continuity," the circular noted.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also has expressed her desire in this light time to time, it maintained.

JS session opens today

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liament is likely to witness many other things that include moving of a bill seeking formation of a law reforms commission to scrutinise the existing laws and make suggestions to update those. State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru will move the bill.

The Finance Minister would place the national budget for fiscal 1996-1997 some time during this session. Besides, parliamentary standing committees on various ministries would also be formed during the first session. Unlike in the past, MPs would be heading the standing bodies.

All such committees except a few such as Public Accounts Committee and Public Undertaking Committee, were headed by the ministers concerned in the past.

Meanwhile, both the ruling Awami League and the Opposition BNP have prepared themselves to face each other in Parliament.

The BNP has been preparing to form a shadow cabinet "with a view to playing an effective role of parliamentary opposition, while the AL is learnt to have decided to conduct an orientation course for its freshers on the functioning of parliamentary democracy."

The ordinances to be placed before the House today include: Insurance (Amendment) Ordinance, The Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, The Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, The Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Ordinance, The Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, The Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute

Ershad may attend JS session today

By Staff Correspondent

Jailed former president and Jatiya Party (JP) chief HM Ershad will attend the first session of the seventh Jatiya Sangsad today, following a government decision to grant him parole for this, according to official sources.

Ershad would be brought to the Sangsad Bhawan straight from the Dhaka Central Jail and is likely to preside over the parliamentary party meeting of the JP, party sources said.

Press reports had earlier said that Ershad would be granted parole to attend the first session of the Sangsad.

135 ex-MPs demand Ershad's release

One hundred and thirty-five former members of parliament belonging to the Jatiya Party have demanded the release of former President H M Ershad before the start of the Jatiya Sangsad session, reports BSS.

A meeting, presided over by former member of parliament Mokhar Hossain, resolved that "Pallabandhu" Ershad should be freed in view of political change in the country and his being elected from five constituencies in the June 12 parliamentary elections.

Tk 6 lakh, gold ornaments snatched in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, July 13: Armed miscreants allegedly snatched Taka six lakh and gold ornaments in four incidents here today.

According to police, Tk two lakh was snatched from the owner of a patrol pump when he was going by car to a bank at Kapasgola to deposit the money at 10 am.

Meanwhile, armed persons looted Tk four lakh after storming into a petrol pump at Hathazari.

Muggers also snatched gold ornaments from a woman in front of the Apollo market.

In another incident one golden chain was snatched from a woman at the Golpasha crossing.

One killed in bus mishap

COMILLA, July 13: One person was killed and 15 others were injured today when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Katchua over-turned after its driver lost control over the steering near Laxmipur under Barura thana on Comilla-Chandpur road, reports BSS.

Nur Mia, 30, helper of the bus, died on the spot. The injured persons were released after first aid.

The Comilla-Chandpur road was closed for about three hours as the bus could not be removed. Later the road was cleared by removing the ill-fated bus through a crane brought from Comilla town.

CORRIGENDUM

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This is for information for all concerns that the spelling of the name of our company is "BENGAL FINE CERAMICS LIMITED". But inadvertently some Share Application Forms have been printed with the spelling "BANGAL FINE CERAMICS LIMITED". We are extremely sorry for this inadvertent mistake.

For the greater interest of public, we will accept Application Forms in both "BENGAL" & "BANGAL" to avoid any confusion in the mind of public.

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BNP to place Bills

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gum Khaleeda Zia had earlier announced that her party would "compel the government to materialise" BNP's commitments to the people made before the June 12 general elections.

The bills submitted include one seeking introduction of pension for the elderly citizens, an election pledge of the BNP.

The party is also working on several other bills including one that would seek amendment to the present law to make education free for girls upto HSC level.

When contacted last night, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told The Daily Star that they had decided to submit a number of bills and notices. However, he could not specifically mention which of the bills were submitted till yesterday.

The BNP lawmakers have also submitted a good number of notices and questions on issues ranging from law and order in the country to "some major political decisions" taken by the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the sources said.

The notices and questions are on issues like terrorism, alleged deterioration of law

Sacrificial meat looted in Pabna

PABNA, July 13: Some 200 pieces of sacrificial meat donated by the Saudi government were looted by angry people at Rajapur in Sadar thana today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a large number of people assembled in front of DC's office since morning after hearing that Saudi meats would be distributed there.

But they were outraged knowing that some 200 pieces of meat had already been distributed among the officials. As they were returning home with frustration, the people found two meat laden trucks in Rajapur area and looted the meats at about noon.

A total of 900 pieces of sacrificial meat were allocated for Pabna district this year.

CU closed from July 16 to 31

CHITTAGONG, July 13: All classes of Chittagong University will remain closed from July 16 to 31 on account of rainy season and Eid-e-Miladunnabi vacation, a university press release said here today, reports BSS.

ALPP meet

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Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Deputy Leader of the House and four whips. But details could not be known.

According to some party sources, nomination of former Rashid Chowdhury, MP, as Speaker was finalised. Names of Rahmat Ali, MP, and Advocate Abdul Hamid, MP, were being heard as Deputy Speaker, one source said.

The ALPP also discussed rules of business, warrant of precedence and orientation of the first-time members.

An orientation course will be held at parliament club on July 16 and 17. Experienced parliamentarians including the Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sen Gupta, party leaders, jurists and lawyers will conduct the course.

Senior AL leaders and ministers including Abdus Samad Azad, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Salahuddin Yusuf and Abdul Matin Khasru also took part in the discussion at the meeting.

Young man murder: 2 arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Police have arrested two persons wanted in connection with the killing of a young man during a marriage ceremony at Kawranbar in the city on Friday.

During a raid in Tejaon area yesterday, police arrested Amirul Huq alias Swapan and Lebu Shahid alias Shahidullah. They have been named in the FIR filed with police after the murder.

An armed gang shot dead Amir Hossain alias Rama, 25, of West Tejuri Bazar when he was attending the marriage ceremony of his younger sister at about 3 pm Friday.

Police suspected the killing was a sequel to enmity between two local groups.

Meanwhile, Detective Police have arrested one Farhad wanted in connection with the double murder case at Gazirtek under Dohar thana.

He was arrested from Rayerbagh of Demra during a police raid on Friday night.

A gang armed with sharp weapons stabbed to death Mosharraf and Abdul Khaleq and injured at least eight others near Pashanar Dighi at Gazirtek on May 6, police said.

Fire at Chandpur collectorate bldg

From Our Correspondent
CHANDPUR, July 13: A fire broke out at the Chandpur collectorate building this afternoon. Some ballot papers of the June 12 Jatiya Sangsad election and a few documents of the District Accounts Office were gutted. Fire fighters extinguished the fire after about an hour.

BNPPP meet

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destroyed."

The Leader of the Opposition said her party would take a strong stand in the Parliament against these repressive acts.

The meeting of BNPPP, attended by 92 MPs of the party, was addressed by Dr Khan-daker Mosharraf Hossain, MK Anwar, Dr Alauddin, Sadeq Hossain Khoka, Begum Khurshid Jahan Haq, Shamsuzzaman Dudo, Ahsanul Haq Molah, Kabir Hossain and Shamsuddin Ahmed.

RNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan briefed the newsmen about the decisions of the meeting at 10 pm. The meeting was continuing.