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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing police officers at the Razarbagh Police auditorium in the city yesterday. —PID photo

Hasina tells policemen

Arrest terrorist even if he belongs to my party

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the police to improve law and order for establishing a terrorism-free society and attracting foreign investment in the country, reports UNB.

Terrorism, toll collection and hoodlomanism have stalled all kinds of works, she said while calling the police for uprooting these 'vices' to create a congenial atmosphere for unhindered development activities and foreign investment in the country.

Addressing police personnel at Rajarbagh Police Auditorium in the morning, the Prime Minister said her government is determined to eradicate terrorism from the society and sought their cooperation to fulfill her government's commitment.

Economic development is related to law and order for which police can play a vital role, she said.

"Don't hesitate to arrest a terrorist even if he belongs to my party," she said asking the police to carry out their duty impartially.

The Prime Minister, however, asked them to behave politely with the people in a bid to earn their trust, faith, confidence and respect.

She said the main aim of the police should be to maintain peace and congenial atmosphere in every sphere of life braving fear and illegal influence.

Hasina lauded the role of the police during the Liberation War in 1971 and appreci-

ated their role during the last general election.

She recalled that the first resistance against the Pakistani occupation forces came from Rajarbagh Police Line and it remained a glorious part of the history of our liberation war.

The Prime Minister said the government is aware of the problems police are facing in performing their duties and assured them of taking steps on priority basis to build up a modern and service oriented police force in the country.

Responding to a request of the Inspector General of Police, the Prime Minister announced that from now on one lakh taka will be provided to the family of a police personnel who would die while performing his duty. Earlier, the amount was Tk 50,000.

She also announced increase of family ration of police to 40 per cent from existing 20 per cent, for which additional Tk 13 crore will be spent from the government exchequer.

Earlier, on her arrival at Rajarbagh Police Line, the Prime Minister was received by Home Minister Rafiqul Islam, the Home Secretary and the Inspector General of Police.

She placed wreath at monument erected in memory of police officers and constables who were killed in the first attack by Pakistani occupation forces on March 25, 1971.

Hasina also signed the visitors' book and planted a sapling there.

ADAB team meets PM

Consultative bodies on national issues suggested

A six-member delegation of the Association of the Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) led by its chairman Dr. Quazi Faruque Ahmed called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

During the meeting the ADAB members discussed in details various issues including eradication of terrorism, poverty alleviation, generation of self-employment opportunity, rehabilitation of slum dwellers and protection of women's rights.

They suggested formation of consultative committees at different levels comprising leading citizens to unite society for moulding public opinion on important national issues.

The other members of the delegation were Kushi Kabir, Mahbulul Karim, Arora Goon, Rokeya Kabir and Omar Faruque.

The Prime Minister assured them of her all cooperation to their endeavours for bringing about welfare of the oppressed and poor masses. The Prime Minister also lauded the role being played by the ADAB members for the overall development and progress in social life.

Two BNP dist committees dissolved

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has dissolved its Joypurhat and Shariatpur committees and formed convening committees for the two districts to hold conferences within two months as per the party constitution, reports UNB.

According to a party press release in the city yesterday a 92-member convening committee of Joypurhat district BNP was formed with Mozahar Ali as convener, and Tozammel Haq, Matir Rahman, Zahurul Alam, Taifur Rahman Talukder, Sardar Liaquat Ali and Dewan Korban Ali as joint conveners.

Besides, a 36-member convening committee of Shariatpur district unit was constituted with Alhaj T M Giasuddin as convener, and Shafiur Rahman Kiron and Amjad Hossain as joint conveners.

Full-fledged district committees will be formed in the conferences.

Escapees

From Page 1

dur Rahman, son of Fazlur Rahman, Moneswar Road under Dhanmondi thana, is an accused in seven under trial cases, police and SB sources said.

Shawkat, who had been in the jail since 1993, was picked up when the SB team, acting on a tip-off, raided the house of one Mohammad Ali in Rajapur village at Uttarkhan under Uttara thana at about 4:25 pm. Earlier, the SB team raided the house of another person at Tongi.

The four arrested security men — Shayesta Khan, Abdus Salam Sarker, Md Robiullah and Mujibur Rahman Khan — were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday noon.

The CID, who are investigating the incident, had prayed for 10 days remand.

Thirteen prisoners, including five convicts, escaped from the jail making a hole in their cell and scaling the high boundary wall.

Meanwhile, the CID has filed statements of a number of jail security personnel.

The Detective Branch (DB) police and other intelligence agencies, including the SB and CID were still raiding many places across the country to hunt for the 12 others jail escapees.

Police raided different areas of the city during the day yesterday.

Quick economic growth needed for human development : Kibria

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria yesterday said the policy of the present government is to achieve quick economic growth by encouraging more investments in different sectors.

At a press conference in the city held to mark the release of the Human Development Report 1996 prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Minister said the government is committed to ensure social justice and economic self-reliance.

"We want quick growth," he said "there is no alternative focus because unless we ensure growth by removing stagnation from the economy, there cannot be any human development."

He went on to add: "We want to alleviate poverty. But if there is no revenue surplus how can we fund poverty alleviation schemes? A lot of good works could not be implemented in the past because of the retarded growth of the economy."

He said the quality of the public sector services would be gradually improved and the government would try to up-

root corruption as much as possible.

"Once we can control corruption, it would also save a lot of resources," he added.

Describing the strategy of the government to achieve a minimum 6 per cent growth, the Finance Minister said, "through increasing investment in all the sectors of the country, we can attain the desired growth."

Investment would not be limited within the industrial sector. It will be encouraged in infrastructure, human resources, agriculture and other sectors as well," he noted.

To strengthen investment, we shall encourage savings. The level of savings went down in 1995, this has to be improved."

He noted that by achieving a high growth rate, the country would be able to fund human resource development schemes. While by ensuring social justice, equity of the growth would be ensured.

The Human Development Report 1996 exclusively suggests that economic growth should be equitable in order to ensure human resource development.

Position in HDI

From Page 1

The per capita daily calorie intake in Bangladesh is 2,019 and the rate of literacy stands at 37 per cent. The per capita income in Bangladesh is 220 US dollars.

In administration and managerial jobs, the participation of women in comparison to men is only 5 per cent while in professional and technical works, the percentage is 30 per cent and in clerical and sales work, it is four per cent and among service workers the percentage of women workers against men workers is 87.

For every 1000 persons in Bangladesh, there are 44 radios and five TV sets while they consume only 0.4 metric ton of printing and writing paper. For every 100 people there is only 0.2 telephone lines.

Some 49 per cent of the population constitute the labour force of the country while the women's share of adult labour force is 41 per cent.

Some 56 per cent of people in the urban areas and 51 per cent in rural areas are living in poverty, the UNDP report noted.

Presenting the report to the press, Grameen Bank consultant Dr Mohammad Faruquddin said that the gap between the poor and the rich

of the world continued to widen.

Twenty per cent of the countries in the world share 78 per cent of total global resources. The remaining 80 per cent countries share 22 per cent of the resources.

Faruquddin noted that the wealth of 358 billionaires of the world equals 45 per cent of the resources of the least developed countries.

The development report suggested that in order to break the vicious cycle of poverty, the least developed countries should aim to create a cycle of prosperity by ensuring a three per cent growth rate.

"The people is the main focus of development. Human development and economic growth are related with each other. But economic growth alone can not ensure human resources development if the growth is not equitable," said UNDP Resident Representative Emi Watanabe.

"A deliberate design is needed to thrust both human resources development and economic growth. The government needs to be determined to achieve such goals," Watanabe said adding, "equity should be ensured in order to make a growth meaningful."



A Rathajatra procession of the Hindu community in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Alleged terrorist held at Demra

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, July 17: Demra police arrested an alleged terrorist, Mominullah David, from Bibir Bagicha area under Demra thana last night.

David, wanted in connection with 19 criminal cases, was caught red-handed while trying to mug rickshaw passengers on the road.

In another drive, police recovered clothes worth about Tk ten lakh last night. The clothes were looted by dacoits from a garments factory.

Armed robbers intercepted a truck carrying the clothes of Knit Concern around 11 am and diverted it to Daobhog Pacca Road.

Acting on a tip-off, police rushed there around 12 O'clock and recovered the goods.

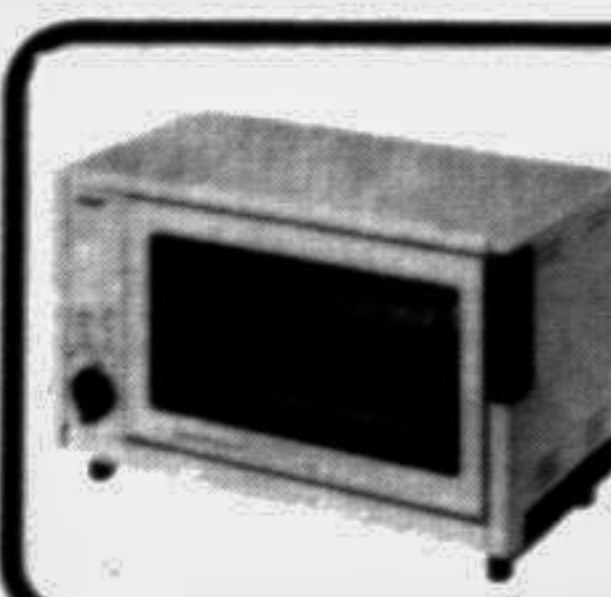
One Nazmul, 25, was arrested from the spot.

SAARC-EC MOU on administrative cooperation

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) on administrative co-operation was signed in Brussels recently, between the European Commission (EC) represented by its director for South and South-East Asia, Emiliano Fossati and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) represented by its Secretary General, Naem U Hasan, reports BSS.

The MOU mainly focuses on exchanges of information, institutional support and training and technical assistance. European Commission office in Dhaka said.

Political dialogue between EU and SAARC had been officially opened in September 1994 in New York between the foreign ministers of the EU, Troika and the Bangladesh foreign minister representing at that time the SAARC chairmanship.



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PHILIPS

Govt plans \$122m transport project for Dhaka city

By Masud Arif

The government is planning to initiate a 121.7 million US dollar Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) to improve the city's communication network.

The proposed project is expected to be launched from the World Bank, according to a senior official of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

The DUTP has been planned with a short and a long term objectives, he said. The short term objective of the project is to address urgent policy issues and traffic management constraints and removal of physical infrastructure bottlenecks.

The long term objectives of the DUTP is to focus on planning, institution strengthening and developing policies to adequately tackle the urban transport issues over the next twenty years, according to a project profile prepared by the BRTA.

Meanwhile, the BRTA and other concerned bodies were preparing to start the project preparation studies which is

expected to be completed in three phases by the end of 1997. The BRTA official added.

Presently, around 1.48 lakh different types of vehicles, about 2.5 lakh rickshaws and some 40,000 autorickshaws and tempos are plying on the roads of the urban areas of the capital. BRTA sources said.

The government approached the World Bank in March 1994 to assist in planning and financing the transport sector improvement project in the city.

In August last year, a six member World Bank Mission arrived in Dhaka and after detailed discussion with the ministries concerned agencies and private sector organisations identified the project and signed an Aid Memoir.

The key components of the proposed project identified on a preliminary assessment include improvement of traffic management, improving private provision of bus services, organised use of non-motorised transport and better facilities for pedestrians, city road rehabilitation and main-

tenance, construction of grade separated interchanges like rail, road overpass and flyover, improvement of existing commuter railway facilities in the city, institutional strengthening and capacity building and planning and policy studies, according to a paper prepared on the project.

The tentative investment components of the project are civil works, equipment for traffic management, institutional strengthening, planning and policy studies and project implementation support.

The 64.1 million dollar civil works component of the DUTP includes intersection improvements, improvement of accident blackspots and relocation of utilities, rehabilitation of the existing bus terminals, land development for new bus terminals, and terminals for city bus, construction of heavy goods vehicle terminal, rickshaw road network development, off-street parking, and construction of flyovers, rail and road overpasses and improvement of railway commuter services.

Next President

From Page 1

times (give or take another five) on official work during his five years in office, except attending Eid prayers and the opening of parliament sessions. Even his customary function as Chancellor of Universities he was not allowed to carry out, or could not because of his unacceptability to the students. Thank Allah for the Haj, otherwise his foreign trip in five years would have been only one.

As we had mentioned earlier, the criteria for choosing a President appear to have been loyalty to the person of the Prime Minister (and not to the Constitution or the State, or to the ideals of democracy and rule of law), and a widely certified spinelessness so that he can never resist the PM from carrying out his or her wishes, using the very limited powers that the system allows him.

This attitude in choosing a President comes from an over anxiety and insecurity of the Prime Minister and her government that in the very remote eventuality of the PM and the President not seeing eye to eye, the latter should not be a person of moral strength to take any stand. The anxiety and insecurity itself spring from a deeper political malaise of our political parties who believe in democratic norms only so far as they suit their partisan needs.

The question we would like to pose here is that, did choosing such persons 'serve' the interest of the executive Prime Minister. What purpose of the PM was served by making Mahmudullah President, except that it greatly lowered Bangabandhu's prestige, cast doubt on his choice, and made him look small? Closer to our time, did choosing a man like Biswas really serve Begum Zia's interest? Suppose instead, she had chosen a non-partisan figure who was nationally respected, widely trusted for his integrity and acceptable to all sections of the people. Could not such a President have played a far more effective role during the nearly three years of political crisis that tore the nation apart? Could he not have had a far more effective impact, or at least provided a communication channel with the opposition, then did the incumbent? We think that a non-partisan President, and one with impeccable reputation for courage, integrity and fair play could have helped Begum Zia resolve the political crisis that ultimately forced her to relinquish power. Far before the crisis came to a head, the President could have used the MORAL authority of his office, and the strength, and stature of his personal standing to bring the two sides to the talking table. So the experience is that choosing non-party loyalists does not serve any purpose.

It is our view that the most important criterion in choosing a President should be how much of the nation can he unite while adorning that supreme symbolic post? Can he be trusted to stay above partisan considerations when the crunch comes, especially when the crunch comes? Does he master the stature and respect to act as the arbiter when the major political forces fall apart? Can he continue to keep the nation together even when the popularly elected government, or even the parliament in our latest case, fall to? Does he have the integrity of character and the courage of conviction to give personal and informal counsel to the Prime Minister and the opposition in times of national crisis. On the external side he can act as our most powerful and effective Ambassador abroad, attending global gatherings and informing the world of our intel-

lectual and cultural wealth. We spend millions maintaining a President yet not use him to represent us in global fora where he can help improve the image of our country.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will have to keep in mind all the above considerations and especially the poignant lessons from the recent political crisis, the need of country that has to make up for a great chunk of lost time in a highly competitive world, and the crucial task of giving further strength and substance to our democratic institutions, especially the Parliament, in choosing the next President. She must ask what she wants her President to be like, and in the answer to that question lies the real test of how visionary she is going to be. Please remember 'loyalty' does not serve, integrity of the President does.

The task of finding such a Presidential candidate is difficult. However, as Justice Shahabuddin and Habibur Rahman Shelly, responding to the respective needs of the time, have so ably shown, it is not impossible.

Flood

From Page 1

Eight villages of Meruchar union in Bakshiganj thana were submerged yesterday following the rise of water level in the river Brahmaputra.

Shimlapalli, Dhanata, Kamrabad, Tarapara, Ghorabari, Charnulbari and Bousi Bangali areas of Sarishabari pourasava went under water from the Jamuna.

In Lalmonirhat district, flood situation slightly improved yesterday following recession of water but most of the affected people could not yet return to their abandoned homes.

Some 10,000 affected families were waiting for relief.

Another report says, 61 unions of Kurigram were affected by flood. Our Sherpur Correspondent reports: Flood situation in three thanas of the district has worsened further inundating fresh areas.

The situation in Sadar Sherpur, Nakla and Shrebdori took an alarming turn due to rise in water of Jamuna and Brahmaputra rivers.

ALPP

From Page 1

today, a private members day, sources said.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas avoided the wording 'Father of the Nation' and said 'late president' while pronouncing the name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in his speech at the time of paying tributes to the illustrious leader.

On the concluding of the two-day orientation course for the Treasury Bench members yesterday, some deputies wanted their leaders to make it clear whether or not the party was going to give a Vote of Thanks on the President's speech.

"We cannot endorse the speech of the President. We are not going to move a Motion of Thanks on a speech that went against our political belief and line of policies," said a ruling party deputy, who is also a member of the cabinet.

A cabinet minister cited a recent example of a neighbouring country saying that the coalition-government of Deve Gowda in India did not give a Vote of Thanks on the presidential speech delivered in the Lok Sabha.

A lawmaker, however, noted that according to a Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure, discussions can be held on Vote of Thanks in the House and any opposition party or any individual MP enjoys the freedom to render thanks on the President's speech.

BNP's no

From Page 1

ister M Saifur Rahman to share the latter's experiences.

Commenting on this, a ruling party source alleged that the BNP was showing a "clear gesture of non-cooperation" to the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Elaborating, the source stated that the BNP chief and former Prime Minister also declined to be the chief guest at the concluding session of a day-long national workshop on law and order, planned in the city by the home ministry on July 20.

The Home Ministry has, meanwhile, sent letters to leaders of eight political parties including the BNP inviting them to attend the July 20 workshop.

While talking to these correspondents, Mannan Bhuiyan also confirmed that his party received the Home Ministry letter. Asked whether they will join the planned workshop, the BNP leader repeated, "We want to discuss all issues including the country's deteriorating law and order in the floor of the House."

Contacted over telephone, Jatiya Party secretary general and Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju commented that inviting the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament to the on-going pre-budget discussions amounts to invitation all the parties in the House.

"I participated in today's pre-budget discussion, attended by some selected ministers," he said.

Atlanta

From Page 1

The Atlanta organisers had no guarantee from the public purse, although the federal government is footing a bill estimated to be around 200 million dollars for security and transport.

The lack of public funding involvement has been a constant concern to the conservative mandarins of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and no city will be allowed again to win a bid without a financial safety net.

These are the Olympics of urban America — most venues and the Olympic Village are looped by traffic-choked highways. The main stadium and a park in the middle of the "Olympic ring" were converted from drab districts of down-market housing and deserted warehousing.

It is not a peaceful city. Beggars, drug addicts and common used to hold sway after dark although a huge security force promises to make Atlanta safe for international guests.

"Atlanta will be the safest place on earth during the Games," said ACOG security chief Bill Rathburn.

Atlanta invited all 197 IOC members and received a 100 per cent response. Eritrea is the only UN member who failed to meet IOC requirements and the East African nation must stay outside the Olympic fold, at least until Sydney.

North Korea caused a ripple of unease by failing to reply to the Olympic invitation before being prodded by ex-President Jimmy Carter, a former Georgia governor who has been on diplomatic missions to the isolationist east Asian state.

Carter has thus managed to rehabilitate himself slightly with the IOC, who blamed him for instigating the boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games over the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan.

One record Atlanta is praying to avoid is to have the hottest Olympics ever. Many question the wisdom of staging the Games at the height of summer, when the mercury can easily reach 40 Celsius and humidity oppresses.

DMC : No decision yet

From Page 1

They accused each other for the clashes that led to the closure of the college and ban on student politics on the campus.

Leaders of both the groups said they will go for peaceful demonstration for lifting the ban on student politics.

General Secretary of the Dhaka Medical College Students Union (DMCSU) Nooruzzaman Khan Khasru, a leader of the JCD said, "the union has to be restored for the period till the next election is held. It is a blueprint of the BCL to get the Students Union suspended so that student politics is rooted out. They do not want election as they know they will not win."

Moshikur Rahman Bito, president of the BCL unit said, "The tenure of the present DMCSU expired and was given extension."

"If the Union is allowed to function, the next elections will not be fair," he added. Some teachers and students apprehended that the polls to the DMCSU might remain a vital issue for consideration by the authorities prior to making any decision about reopening the institution.

Meanwhile the Dhaka Medical College Students' Union (DMCSU) and leaders of the JCD unit in the college in a joint statement claimed that the Academic Council of the college had first decided to reopen the college on Saturday but changed the decision later under the influence of some "Mujibbadi teachers."

The Academic Council made an announcement before student leaders and general students that DMC would be reopened on July 20 (Saturday) but, withheld the decision after 30 minutes," the press release said.

The release was issued jointly by Touhidul Islam John

Fire in city garments factory: 5 hurt

By DMCH Correspondent

At least five workers were injured in a stampede following an outbreak of fire at a garments factory at Kathal Bagin in the city yesterday afternoon.

Of the injured, two identified as Delwara, 30, and Morjina, 22, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital and Fire Service sources said.

Witnesses said the workers were injured when a fire broke out in a carton store at the garments factory in the fourth floor of the building at about 6:15 pm. The workers got panicked and tried to move out of the building.

Two fire fighting vehicles from Mohammadpur station rushed to the spot immediately. However, the flame had been extinguished before the firemen arrived. Fire Service sources added.

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