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Indian artistes Bappi Lahiri and Hema Malini addressing a press conference at a city hotel yesterday.

Star photo

General students hail

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"ban on student politics will not bring any good."

He, however, said that the present trend of student politics could be changed to curb campus terrorism.

Student politics should be made more student-oriented. Chhatra League is trying to change the present trend of student politics," he said.

He suggested that the course curriculum at all levels including the universities should be changed and designed in such way that can involve the students in studies.

ABM Mosarraf Hossain, DU unit president of JCD also rejected the suggestion.

Major parties

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Awami League and opposition Jatiya Party made cautious remarks on the sensitive issue while a top leader of BNP said that his party was yet to decide on the matter.

However, Mayor of Dhaka and city AL President Mohammad Hanif and Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Maturi Nizami welcomed the President's suggestion.

In a statement Hanif said, "This is very timely appeal from the President for stopping terrorism."

The Mayor also requested all political parties to come forward with a realistic approach to implement the President's suggestion.

Nizami in his statement said that the President had echoed the sincere wishes of the whole nation as regards student politics.

The Jamaat leader also urged the government and the opposition parties to reach a consensus on a moratorium on student politics to free the educational campuses from terrorism.

The proposal is not bad," AL presidium member Amir Hossain Amu told The Daily Star without elaborating.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP said that his party would issue a written reaction to the President's suggestion today after discussing the issue at the party forum. He, however, declined to pass any comment on the issue.

Jatiya Party Secretary General and Communications Minister, Anwar Hossain Manju said that he shared the President's feelings but failed to understand the purpose.

Tribunals

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Considering the inordinate delay in the disposal of the petitions, the Election Commission had proposed the formation of special tribunals at the divisional level to exclusively deal with the election disputes, the sources added.

Malaysians

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plan to force foreign workers who marry Malaysian women to leave the country, the New Straits Times reported Sunday.

Wanita representative Ms Ramlah Abbas said this would result in many women especially Muslim women, becoming "widows."

The government must also reconsider calls by certain quarters to ask Malaysian women who married foreigners to leave the country with their husbands," she said.

Editor : Mahfuz Anam

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The Daily Star

Democracy Watch survey

37 pc happy over govt performance

Thirty-seven per cent of the respondents have said they are satisfied with the performance of the first 100 days of the Awami League government, reports BSS.

Announcing the results of the survey conducted by the 'Democracy Watch' at a press conference yesterday, the organisers said that 43 per cent of them said it was average while 14 per cent were not satisfied.

The survey was conducted in nine major cities of Dhaka, Chittagong, Comilla, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Bogra, Rajshahi, Pirojpur and Barisal on October 1 and 2 on completion of Awami League's 100 days in power.

The allegation of the opposition that the television coverage of the parliament session was not neutral was rejected by a narrow margin — 44 per cent said it was neutral while 43 per cent disagreed.

Prakrishi-BCS leaders meet

Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would not take time in adopting people-oriented decisions, but the administration needs to be dynamic for implementing those in order to keep pace with the fast-moving world, reports UNB.

"The decisions will not be implemented in time if you do not become active and dynamic," she said asking government officials to work sincerely for the interest of the people, utilise every moment for people's welfare.

Addressing the members of Prakrishi-BCS Central Coordinating Council, the Prime Minister said her party had got chance to serve the nation after long 21 years and the government wanted to utilise every second for the advancement of the people.

About the demands of Prakrishi-BCS, the forum of non-administrative officials, the Prime Minister said the government had taken various steps which will help solve their problems.

The council chairman, Engineer MAF Azad, secretary general agriculturist Dr Abdur Razzak, and its leaders Khalil Ahmed and Engr Nurul Huda also spoke on the occasion.

Stressing the need for publishing objective news Prof Sayeed said coordinated efforts must be taken to ensure national interests and people's welfare.

The state minister underscored the need for giving priority on the programmes of poverty alleviation and investment in the news.

He also urged all concerned to help reflect the ideals of great War of Liberation in the press and mass media.

During the meeting the issues of newspaper industry and mass media were discussed freely. The news editors also expressed their views on different aspects.

Information Secretary Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmed was present.

One chopped to death in Jhalakathi

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 14: One Alam Mir, 40, was chopped to death by some unidentified assailants at Galva village under Rajapur thana of Jhalakathi district late last night.

Police and witnesses said Alam Mir was sleeping in his house when some unidentified persons entered his room by breaking the window. They killed him on the spot.

No further details about the murder were available immediately.

There are four contestants in the race. They are: Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Suranjan Sengupta of ruling Awami League, former minister Sirajul Hussain Khan

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medium sized industries became sick due to many reasons including political stalemate and tariff anomalies. "Small and medium business got little financial help from the banks."

In reply to a question, the former MCCI president said that he was quite hopeful of his victory in the election.

Rahman pointed out that this time FBCCI President would be elected from Chamber bodies while Vice President from the Association bodies.

He told a questioner that his opponent Yussuf Abdullah Harun did not fulfil the criteria for being a candidate for the post of president. "He (Harun) did not attend any executive committee meeting of any chamber though he joined a chamber few months back. He was a sitting member of an association and an association member will be elected Vice President this time. This is happening for the first time," he added.

11-member panel

Latifur Rahman, who is contesting from the MCCI, announced an 11-member panel

According to an MCCI press release, the others in the panel are: Md. Fayzul Huq Khan, Gazipur Chamber, Md. Alhaj Afzal Hossain, President of Narayanganj Chamber, Md. Ramiz Uddin Fakir, President of Narsingdi Chamber, Sheikh Delwar Hossain, President of Barishal Chamber, Farid Uddin Ahmed, President of Brahmanbaria Chamber, Alhaj Shahajada Anowarul Kadir, President of Gaibandha Cham-

ber, Bijoy Kumar Kejriwal, President of Kushtia Chamber, Nitya Gopal Devnath of Noakhali Chamber, MA Kafi Sarker, President of Pabna Chamber, and Abul Kashem Ahmed of Tangail Chamber.

The press release said, if the panel was elected, they would uphold the decisions taken jointly by the executive committee. At least two informal meetings of the general body every year, 3) Holding coordination meeting with other chambers once every four months 4) Arrangement for stay in Dhaka of President and Secretary of district chamber bodies, 5) Encouragement to development of trade in districts, 6) Arrangement for easy disbursement of bank loan at district level, 7) Earmarking one per cent expenditure for development of trade bodies, 8) Compulsory membership of Chamber for leading businessmen, 9) Setting up law and order committee in every district, 10) 50 per cent of chamber expenses to be earmarked for problems related to running of industries including electricity supply and other utility services, 11) Strengthening of Federation Secretariat for rejuvenating it.

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