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Telecom policy to encourage private investment: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said past negligence in telecommunication sector severely hindered national growth and called for massive investment, both private and public, for development of this sector, reports UNB.

There is no alternative to huge investment in the telecommunication sector if demands for telephone connections are to be met, she said while inaugurating a national seminar on Telecommunication Policy of Bangladesh at a local hotel.

But, she said, it is not possible on the part of the government alone to provide sufficient fund. The government is committed to increase private investment along with its own initiative, she added.

She said the country is now open for private investment and stressed the need for a policy which would encourage the private sector to invest and offer quality telecommunication services through the process of competition.

The Prime Minister stressed

the need for building a coordinated telecommunication infrastructure which can cater to the increasing demand of telephones both in urban and rural areas.

She also laid emphasis on developing international telecommunication circuit system to create more opportunities through computer data processing.

The Prime Minister said speedy exchange of information at every phase of the economic activity is undeniable and prospect of telecommunication in a developing country like Bangladesh is enormous.

She stressed the need for framing an appropriate national telecommunication policy without further delay.

The Prime Minister said telecommunication sector often face two questions — quality of service and ghost bill. She called for finding out ways and means to check the irregularities and warned of stringent action against those who are associated with ill-motivated activities.

Listing some problems and negligence by the people con-

cerned of this sector, she said scientific system has to be developed to stop such ill-efforts.

The Prime Minister called upon the officers and employees of the T & T Board to work sincerely and show favourable attitude in rendering services as members of an emergency service oriented organisation.

The inaugural session of the workshop was presided over by Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim and was addressed, among others, by Secretary of the Ministry M M Reza and Chairman of T&T Board M H Chowdhury.

Students clash in Barisal: 11 injured

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 20: Eleven persons were injured, one of them seriously, when activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Jatiya Chhatra Samaj (JCS) clashed with those of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at RC College at Mehdiganj in the district today.

According to Mehdiganj thana police and witnesses, JCD activists brought out a procession on the college campus in the morning breaching an earlier "understanding" with the BCL.

BCL leaders protested to the principal of the college and then brought out another protest procession.

The clash broke out when the processions came face to face.

During the clash the JCS activists joined the JCD.

The injured activists were identified as Swapani, 20, Aminul, 23, Liton, 20, Md. Alam, 21, Manjur, 24, Subrata, 25, Kabir, 27, Ripan, 24, Khalil, 20, Sabar, 24, and Jahangir Hosseini, 25.

Child trafficker held, 2 minors rescued in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Nov 20: In a pre-dawn swoop police arrested an alleged child trafficker and rescued two children from a house at Badichanda village today, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of one Golam Mustafa at the village at about 4 am and nabbed the house owner Mustafa, said to be the leader of an organised group of human traffickers.

The rescued minors were identified as Dipu, 4, and Munni, 3, of Gulshan in Dhaka.

Referring to the prorogation order of the President, the Speaker regretted the absence of the main opposition for most of the time during the session, depriving the nation of their valuable contribution.

"The matter is very important. We want everyone to be present in the House, including the main Opposition," Samad said before urging the Chair to defer it.

He, however, blasted the main opposition for staying-off the session.

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