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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talking to a delegation of the Population Council which called on her at her Secretariat office yesterday. — PID photo

**PM tells Population Council team Help improve quality of people's life**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stressed the need for improving the quality of life of the people ensuring their proper schooling and livelihood besides controlling population boom, reports UNB.

"We want to turn our manpower into assets," she said while talking to a delegation of the Board of Trustees of the Population Council at her secretariat chamber yesterday.

Sheikh Hasina said the job of the Population Council is not only to reduce population but also to improve quality of people's life.

Stressing expansion of education, the Prime Minister said: "Education is prerequisite to combating some social menaces."

She also suggested educating women and creating job opportunity for them, which she said, would give them a better position in family and provide them with social security.

The Prime Minister outlined the steps taken by her government for universal female education up to high school level. She identified the lack of male involvement in the family planning programme as a major barrier and requested the Council to help her government work on this issue.

Leader of the 14-member delegation, Margaret Catley-Carlson, President of the Population Council and member of the Board of Trustees, thanked the Prime Minister for her continuing support for the empowerment of women in Bangladesh.

She also briefed Hasina about the research activities undertaken by the Council, including technical assistance provided to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on recruitment of female as family planning fieldworkers.

The President of the Population Council, a New York-based international organisation, also mentioned the coordination of government and NGO family planning and maternal/child health activities, and testing of alternative FF-MCH service-delivery models, particularly cluster visitation, and

**PCJSS**

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The letter signed by PCJSS leader Rupayan Dewan was sent to the liaison committee convenor, Hangsa Dhaja Chakma. He urged the government to arrange a helicopter for the PCJSS delegation to fly to Dhaka from Dhudhupchhari in Panchhari thana of Khagrachhari district and to go back to Dhudhupchhari.

As per decision of the previous talks, eight security camps will be withdrawn temporarily and watching from five camps will remain suspended in the Dhudhupchhari area from January 20.

Meanwhile, a tense situation was prevailing in the hill districts following the killing of four tribal leaders — Subinoy Chakma, Adi Shankar Khisa, Bibhuti Ranjan Karbari and Kalijoy Chakma — in last two months.

**Anniversary**

From Page 1

morning while party leaders will offer *fateha* and place wreaths at the mazar of the late leader at 10 am.

A discussion meeting on 'Shaheed Zia' will be held at 4 pm at 29, Minto Road, the official residence of Leader of the opposition in Parliament.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the Dhaka City BNP was held yesterday with its convenor Sadeq Hossain Khoka MP in the chair at the party central office.

The meeting decided to observe the 61st birth anniversary of Ziaur Rahman today and the Shaheed Asad Day tomorrow.

It congratulated city president and central vice president of the Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal, Nasir Uddin Pintu, on his release from jail on Thursday.

The meeting was addressed by Mirza Abbas, Salahuddin Ahmed, Eklhas Uddin Mollah, Kazi Abul Bashar, Abdul Wadud Master, Mainuddin Mainu and Shamsul Huda.

**Hasina likely to meet Clinton during US visit**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to have a meeting with US President Bill Clinton to discuss bilateral matters during her forthcoming visit to Washington, reports UNB.

Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to leave for Washington on January 30, to attend the World Microcredit Summit. The three-day summit will begin on February 2 in the US capital.

Heads of state or government of 185 countries have been invited to the conference which will work out a programme to free some 600 million poorest people from the curse of poverty by 2005.

Sheikh Hasina, as one of the co-chairpersons of the summit, will preside over the top one of 15 council sessions of the global meet.

Queen Sophia of Spain and the wife of US President, Hillary Clinton, are also co-chairpersons.

The Bangladesh leader will also seize the opportunity to hold bilateral parleys with heads of state or government of other friendly countries on the sidelines of the summit, official sources said yesterday.

Sheikh Hasina is expected to return on February 7.

**Workers of Dhaka Match in Khulna laid off**

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 18: The workers of the Dhaka Match Industries Co Ltd here have been laid off from 6 am today.

The General Manager in his lay-off notice said the factory has been a losing concern for the last one year.

A total of 700 casual and regular workers have been laid off and all units of the factory will remain closed until further orders.

**CMM's Court**

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Col Shahriar Rashid Khan, Capt Wahab, and Lt Col Mohiuddin, besides Zobaeda Rashid, wife of absconding accused Col Abdur Rashid and Taheruddin Thakur, who was state minister both under Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed.

The charge sheet also contained the names of four deceased persons. They are: Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed, Mahbub Alam Chashi, Captain Mostafa and Risalder Sarwar. Sources concerned said that since they are dead, their names were not sent up for trial.

The accused absconders who have been charged/heated are: former military officers Col Abdur Rashid Khandaker, Lt Col Aziz Pasha, Maj Dalim, Maj Bazul Huda, Maj Noor, Maj Mohiuddin, Maj Rashed Chowdhury, Maj Ahmed Sharif Hasan, Capt Kismet, Lt Nazmul Ansar, Capt Majed and Capt Moslemuddin besides Marfat Ali Shah and Abul Hashem Mirdha.

**3-yr plan**

From Page 1

In another incident, one Zafrullah, 32, of Jahangir Store in the plan.

The new FFYP, work for which has already started, would give importance to the local government's role in formulation and implementation of plans.

Inclusion of the private sector in the planning structure has also been proposed as part of the government's policy to help stimulate the sector.

Meanwhile, all the ministries and divisions of the government has been asked to submit a progress report on the Fourth Five Year Plan. The General Economic Division (GED) has also undertaken an exercise to evaluate the effectiveness of different macro policies of the Fourth Plan.

The government has also started the process to formulate a national advisory panel to assist the GED of the Planning Ministry in formulating the FFYP. Sectoral task forces have also been formed which will be advised by eminent economists and personalities.

**Seven killed, 100 hurt in road accidents**

By Staff Correspondent

Seven persons were killed and nearly one hundred others injured in road accidents in Dhaka, Natore, Sherpur, Pabna and Comilla districts yesterday.

A trader of poultry eggs died and two others sustained injuries when a speeding truck from Gazipur collided with a train at the Staff Road level crossing at Kurmitola in the city early yesterday.

Ahsanullah, 35, who was in the truck died on the spot, police said.

The truck rammed the local train Bhairab at around 2:10 am as the gate to the level crossing was reportedly kept open. The driver and his helper were injured as the truck fell into a roadside ditch after being hit by the train.

A rescue team of the fire brigade rushed to the spot and recovered the body which was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy, said police, adding a case has been filed with Kamalapur railway thana.

Our Nature correspondent says: three passengers were killed and 50 others injured when a coach bound for Chapinawabganj overturned near 'Banpara' Bazar under Baraigram thana yesterday.

Police and fire service sources said the coach, Insaaf Special, fell into a ditch while giving side to a vehicle. One of the deceased was identified as Tushar, 20.

Fifteen of the injured have been hospitalised. The driver and his helper have fled.

UNB adds: Father and son met the tragic end of their lives when a truck ran over them at Dashuria in Ishwardi yesterday.

Police said a Pabna-bound truck hit the bicyclist father, Abdur Razzak, 40, and his 13-year-old son, Wadud, from behind while they were returning home in the evening after visiting the local sugar mills.

Both of them died on the spot.

Meanwhile, at least 25 people were injured, 10 of them seriously, in a road accident near Ganapaddi bazar in Nokla thana on the Sherpur-Dhaka highway yesterday morning.

Police and witnesses said, the mishap occurred at 6:30 am when a Mymensingh-bound minibus and a truck from the opposite direction made a head-on collision.

The seriously injured were identified as Sakawat Hossain, 26, Abdul Manna, Bibha Chakrabarty, Karunakanta Malakar, Sheikh Harunur Rashid, Mafjul Islam, Abdus Sattar, Parveen Barma Rani and Maqbul.

Of them, seven were sent to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, two to the Sherpur Sadar Hospital and one to Nokla Thana Health Complex.

The drivers of both the vehicles escaped.

Another UNB report says: An unidentified middle-aged man was crushed under the wheels of a Sherpur bound minibus from Dhaka near the Zila Parishad Dakbanglow at 6:45 am just after he got down from the minibus in Sherpur.

The driver fled the scene with his vehicle.

BSS adds: One person was killed and 20 others were injured when a Comilla-bound bus collided with a truck at Gazipur of Daudkandi Thana on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway, police sources said.

The victim, aged about 8, could not be identified.

Of the injured, five were admitted to Gouripur hospital in a critical condition and others were released after first aid.

Police seized both the truck and bus. A case was filed with Daudkandi thana.

**Try 17 ministers of BNP govt, demands Ershad**

RANGPUR, Jan 18: Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad here today demanded that the government try 17 ministers of the previous BNP government, reports UNB.

Ershad, who came to his home town Thursday on a three-day visit, the first after he was freed on bail, was addressing a press conference at the local Circuit House before returning to the capital.

He said the BNP will never return to power as there was no democracy during its rule and Begum Khaleda Zia had totally failed to run the country.

The former president said he will apprise the countrymen of why BNP didn't take part in the 1986 general election held during his regime, Awami League participated in that election.

Ershad whose Jatiya Party is a partner of the Awami League's "government of consensus" observed that the present government is more democratic than the past BNP government.

He, however, told a questioner that this is too early to evaluate Sheikh Hasina's government.

Hailing the Indo-Bangla Ganges water sharing treaty, the deposed president said it would help resolve other outstanding issues between the two countries.

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**Thakurgaon by-polls: 8 file nominations**

Eight candidates submitted nomination papers yesterday, the last date of filing nomination, for contesting by-election to the Thakurgaon-1 seat of the Jatiya Sangsad. The candidates are Balram Guha Thakurata, Satyajit Kumar Kundu, Ramesh Chandra Sen, S M Azizul Haq, Krishak Mohammad Sadek, ZHN Islam, Mohammad Abul Hossain Sarker and Mohammad Raiful Islam. Voting for the by-election in the constituency is scheduled for February 18, said an Election Commission release, reports UNB.

**BNP, Jamaat boycott Thakurgaon by-election**

Opposition BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami have decided not to contest the Thakurgaon by-election on the plea that voting would not be fair under the present Chief Election Commissioner and the party in power, reports UNB.

The BNP, which has been agitating for the resignation of CEC Muhammad Abu Hena for his 'partisan role' in past elections, decided to stay off the by-election.

"We are agitating for resignation of the CEC, but Abu Hena has not yet resigned. So we cannot participate in the polls," said Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

When contacted last night, Jamaat Publicity Secretary Abdul Qader Mollah said his party's parliamentary board had earlier decided not to take part in by-elections under a party in power.

**Rehana will receive Netaji Award given to Bangabandhu**

CALCUTTA, Jan 18: Sheikh Rehana, the younger daughter of the founding father of Bangladesh, will receive the prestigious Netaji Award being given to her father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, posthumously on Netaji's birthday on January 23, official sources said here today, reports PTI.

West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu will hand over the award to Sheikh Rehana in a colourful programme.

A number of programmes have been finalised by the Netaji Birth Centenary Celebration Committee for the day when processions from different parts of the metropolis will march in military style to the tune of Azad Hind band.

The international Netaji Centenary Committee of Netaji Research Bureau today started a week-long programme

**President**

From Page 1

Problems of the textile sector, customs and duties also came up for discussion. They pointed out the impediments to establishment of new textile mills essential to face the forthcoming hard competition worldwide in the garment sector.

The members of the delegation expressed the view that consensus of political parties is essential for political stability in the country without which foreign investors will not come here.

President Shahabuddin gave them a patient hearing and said the country's business community should vent their unanimitous opinion to the political leaders of the country for ensuring a sound financial system.

FBCCI vice-president Alhaj Kazi Md Shaiful Islam, executive members, Secretary to President Muhammad Mamun Huj and Military Secretary to the President Major General Ruhul Alam Chowdhury were present during the meeting.

**UP complex**

From Page 1

ties to officials of different government departments under one roof. At the same time, the elected representatives will be able to supervise the activities of various offices at the union level and thus ensure effective coordination, the press release said.

Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Zillur Rahman and State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Syed Abul Hossain were among those present at the time of presentation of the models to the Prime Minister.

**Lahore blast**

From Page 1

Sectorial violence involving rival party militants has claimed scores of lives in Pakistan over the past few weeks while about a dozen bomb blasts, blamed on unidentified terrorists, have left more than 80 people dead in central Pakistan's Punjab province since April last year.



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating a function organised by JASSAS at Ramna Batamul on the occasion of 61st birth anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman yesterday. — Star photo

**Move to erase Zia's name won't succeed: B Chy**

By Staff Correspondent

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad, Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury has blamed the Awami League government for "attempting to undermine Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman" who, he said, showed the path to freedom fighters during the country's War of Liberation.

"While big leaders went into hideouts or volunteered arrest (during the war), Zia faced the situation courageously and showed way to the freedom fighters which none dared to do," Chowdhury said at a children's art and speech competition at the Ramna Batamul in the city yesterday marking the 61st anniversary of birth of late President Ziaur Rahman, founder of BNP.

Ziaur Rahman's widow Begum Khaleda Zia, who is also chief of BNP and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, inaugurated the competition by releasing 61 pigeons and 61 balloons.

BNP's cultural wing, Jatiyatadabi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS), organised the competition as part of the programme to celebrate Zia's birth anniversary today. JASAS chief Rezaboddowla presided over the function which was also addressed by BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP, former secretary general of the party Abul Salam Talukdar, Jatiya Press Club president Rezauluddin Ahmed and film actor Rajiv.

The government has cancelled the November 7 public holiday, broken the bridge at Zia's mazar and made changes in the names Zia International Airport and some auditoriums at different parts of the country dropping Zia's name, he said

**2 SEC members likely to be removed soon**

The two members of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), who have been in the centre of a controversy, are likely to be removed in a couple of days, official sources said yesterday, reports UNB.

Faizuddin Ahmed, Managing Director of the House Building Finance Corporation, and Enayadul Haque, a member of the National Board of Revenue, are expected to replace the two SEC members.

Contracts of SEC members Alamgir Kabir and Dr A K M Shahabul Alam will be terminated and directives to this effect will be issued soon by the Ministry of Finance, the sources said.

Proposals for appointment of two new members have already been approved by the prime minister, but the approval is yet to reach the banking division that looks after the capital market issues.

"If we receive the file from the Prime Minister's Office tomorrow, we'll issue directives without delay," Shah Abdul Hannan, the Banking Secretary, told UNB. He, however, declined to disclose the names of the new members.

**MORHUMA RAZIA SATTAR'S QUL-KHAWANI TODAY**

Begum Razia Sattar wife of late Alhaj A. Sattar former Chairman of Hotel Purbani and Managing Director of Pharmadesh Lab, died in Washington on 14th January '97.

Well Wishers and relatives of the Morhuma are requested to attend the Qul-Khawani and Milad Mahfil to pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Qul-Khawani of Morhuma Razia Sattar and a Milad Mahfil will be held at her House No-8, Road No-34, Gulshan, Dhaka, today 19th January (Sunday) after Asar prayer (4-30 P. M.).

Members of the Family

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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