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Jatiya Party president Abdul Malek presenting a bouquet to Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina on his joining the party at a function at the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. — Star photo

PM: CHT development

From Page 1

Awami League at the function. Referring to today's peace talks on the insurgency-ridden Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Prime Minister hoped a peaceful solution of the issue, reiterating her government's sincere effort to that end.

She mentioned that more than 6,000 tribal refugees had already returned to their homeland from India. "We do not want to see our people stay in another country."

Hasina said the previous governments had not utilised the country's huge natural resources like oil, gas and coal. "They kept the nation as a beggar's one to bring foreign assistance."

She said her government made arrangements for extracting the natural resources by attracting foreign investment in this sector. "And we are trying to ensure proper utilisation of our vast human and natural resources."

Hasina said the past governments had not resolved the Ganges water-sharing problem. Instead, she observed, they kept the issue alive and used it for political purpose.

"But we have resolved the problem as it was our election pledge. The GK irrigation project has already begun to operate and food production also increased," she said.

The prime minister sought cooperation from the people in maintaining peace and stability in the country for smooth development activities. "Our target is to develop the country and ensure welfare of the people."

She said the country's food deficit was 45 lakh tons when the Awami League government took over. This year, total food production will be 2.07 crore tons.

The Prime Minister said some quarters were dishing out propaganda about harvest of paddy having no substance and getting dried. "But the actual situation is not like that."

BSF

From Page 1

denly some BSF personnel caught them and later took them forcibly to the Indian territory at about 6 pm today. The BDR immediately lodged a protest with the BSF and asked them to hand over the Bangladeshis.

Meanwhile, the BSF is yet to return the two Bangladeshi fishermen whom they kidnapped in the early hours of yesterday from the river Kushiara.

PM: Male

From Page 1

On her arrival at Male, Prime Minister Hasina will be received by Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. After a ceremonial welcome, she will be taken to Kurumba Island resort, where she will stay.

On Monday morning, the Prime Minister will attend the inaugural session and in the evening she will attend a banquet to be hosted by the Maldivian President in honour of the heads of state and government attending the three-day conference of the seven-nation association.

On Tuesday, Hasina will attend a cultural programme at Kurumba village resort and on May 14, before returning to Dhaka, attend the concluding session of the summit in the morning.

She will attend a press conference to be addressed by President Gayoom and a reception to be organised by the Bangladesh community in the capital of the Indian Ocean island-country.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to return to Dhaka on May 14 evening.

Tejgaon

From Page 1

many of them having to operate from ill-equipped rented houses where fatal fires and accidents were common. When there is so much demand for industrial plots, how can existing land in industrial area be used for non-industrial purposes, he added.

Tejgaon Industrial Area was set up in 1948. In the first Dhaka Masterplan, drafted in the fifties, the 500.02 acre area was reserved for industry. Again in the 1995 Masterplan, the land was retained for industrial use.

In a survey carried out a few years ago, the Public Works Ministry identified 371.71 acres as allocated industrial plots. But it found that more than 37 acres of land was illegally occupied, both by allottees and outsiders.

Experts concerned suggested that available plots in Tejgaon Industrial Area could be allocated to garment manufacturing companies. A top architect said, "We can allocate small pieces of land to individual garment manufacturers in order to encourage systematic construction of a garment industry village."

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Tender box set on fire in Shailakupa

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, May 10: A group of angry people set fire to the tender box of the Shailakupa Municipality today, according to police and witnesses.

Witnesses said a group of at least 10 people set the tender box on fire at around 12.15 pm, when they found that the authorities had stopped accepting the tenders even before the expiry of the time.

Wage Board

From Page 1

from the date of its receipt and examination by the government, be published in the official gazette."

(ii) The decision of the board published under Sub-Section (1) shall come into operation with effect from such date as may be specified in the decision and where no date is so specified, it shall come into operation on the date of its publication and shall remain in force until it is modified or varied by a later decision of the board published in the manner provided in Sub-Section (1)."

The awards of the current Wage Board which was submitted to the government on April 8 this year were due to be published in gazette notification on May 8.

The Fifth Wage Board, constituted by the previous BNP government, submitted its report to the then government. The caretaker government announced dearness allowance to the newspaper employees with effect from January, 1996. After the June 12 general elections in 1996, the present government reconstituted the Wage Board.

Meanwhile, today's scheduled meeting of Paribesh Parishad to discuss the campus situation and matters related to DUCSU has been postponed due to the strike.

During the meeting with JCD leaders, held at the VC's resident office, Prof. Azad said the schedule for DUCSU election can be announced with the restoration of normalcy in the campus, easing of movement of students in their dormitories and positive attitude of all the student organisations.

It would be impossible to hold a fresh elections of DUCSU and hall unions without participation of all student bodies, he said, adding that "We can only help in maintaining a situation favourable to holding the election."

JCD leaders, on the other hand, said that it will not be possible for them to take part in the election if the present DUCSU body be dissolved before the election.

The VC assured them that the decision about dissolving the DUCSU would be taken after holding discussion with all the student organisations.

The Dhaka University Syndicate, at a meeting in the evening, formed a four-member committee headed by Dr. Shamsul Huq to probe into Friday's incident that left four people injured on the campus.

The committee will submit reports within next 15 days. Meanwhile, the VC told UNB over telephone last night that the university Syndicate has finalised the decision to dissolve the 7-year-old DUCSU and the hall unions.

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50 injured in clash over cheating in HSC exams

At least 50 people were injured in clashes between police and local people in Jamalpur and Sirajganj over cheating in HSC examination halls yesterday, reports UNB.

As many as 30 people were injured in a clash at an examination centre in Melandah thana.

The clash ensued when policemen prevented the local people from helping some examinees in cheating at Melandah Government College centre. Police picked up four people from the spot in this connection.

Seriously wounded five policemen were admitted to Jamalpur General Hospital.

In another incident at least 20 people were injured in the HSC examination hall at Salanga in Rajganj thana of Sirajganj yesterday.

Sources said the clash ensued at Salanga Degree College centre at 12.55 pm as law-enforcing agencies charged batons on some local people who were engaged in helping some examinees involved in cheating.

Of the injured, four were sent to clinics at Rajganj and Ullapara. The condition of Morshed, 23, who was stabbed during the clash, was stated to be critical.

Police arrested four people from the scene. They were identified as Abdul Alim, Masud Rana, Saiful Islam and Akhteruzzaman.

Meanwhile, at least 10 people, including five policemen, were injured in a clash between police and copy suppliers at Kotia Sadat University College in Tangail yesterday.

Police said the angry outsiders, being failed to enter the centre, swooped on them with stones and sticks and damaged three jeeps of local SP, a magistrate and TNO who came to visit the HSC examination centre.

They also damaged a policeman and put fire on a motor cycle of the law enforcing agency. The angry outsiders also blasted several crackers.

Police lobbed 26 tear gas shells and fired 15 round blank shots, including two rubber bullets to disperse about 4000 attackers.

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Doctors

From Page 1

unit of Bangladesh Medical Association. The BMA leaders also demanded removal of Deputy Commissioner Shahjahan Siddiqui.

Earlier in the day, a first class magistrate rejected the bail petitions of Dr. Tunhi, Dr. Ilias and Dr. Kaji Kanti who were arrested after the death of Asaduzzaman, an employee of AC (Land) office, at a local clinic.

TA Vice-President Prof. Aminur Rashid. JCD, BCL and GCO held separate rallies and brought out processions on the campus while police remained deployed there.

The JCD, at its rally at the Battala, urged all students to make its today's strike programme successful. It also demanded resignation of the proctor of the university.

The JCD rally was addressed, by among others, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney, Habib-Un-Nabi Shohel and Monwar Hossain Rana.

BCL leaders at its rally in front of the DUCSU building alleged that "terrorists" of two fallen autocrats were trying to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere on the campus. They criticised the JCD for calling the strike.

The BCL rally was addressed, among others, by Enamul Khan Shams, Ishah Ali Khan Panna and Bahadur Bepari.

The GCO rally at the Aparajeo Bangla was addressed, by among others, Hasan Hafizur Rahman Shohel, Abdullahi Kaum and Ziaur Rahman Zia.

Incumbent BMA President Dr. MA Majed, who was an adviser in the 1990-91 caretaker government of acting president Shahabuddin Ahmed, said the unofficial results from different districts reflected that there were widespread irregularities and rigging in the May 8 polls.

Dr. Gazi Abdul Huq, incumbent Secretary General of the BMA and a candidate for the same this year, read out a prepared statement at a press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon.

The Deputy Speaker then gave the floor to the Law Minister to introduce a bill.

The incident once again made the BNP legislators shout at the Chair and Begum Zia stood up for the second time. As soon as the Law Minister finished, the Leader of the Opposition announced the walkout saying, "I stood earlier to request you to give the floor to Shahidul Islam. We thought that you would give the floor to him especially when you have given the floor to a minister on the issue, I once again request you to give the floor to him, otherwise we would be compelled to stage a walkout protesting your partisan role."

The Deputy Speaker told her that he could not give the floor to Shahidul Islam. "The question of prestige of the Chair is involved in this case."

Begum Zia once again requested him to give the floor to Shahidul Islam. As her request was turned down, she announced the walkout at 8:15 pm. Jamaat MP Kazi Shamsur Rahman was also seen leaving the House, although he did not announce joining the walkout.

After the walkout, five Treasury bench leaders including Zillur Rahman, Sajeda Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury and Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim spoke for almost an hour, criticising the BNP gesture. Some of them also urged the BNP to return to the House.

BSS adds: Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said the "one-sided and undemocratic attitude" of the Deputy Speaker forced the opposition to stage a walkout from the House.

He told newsmen at his chamber after staging the walkout that the House was being rendered ineffective by the stubborn attitude of the Chair, from time to time, and urged the ruling party to change their attitude toward the functioning of the House.

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Let's make things better
PHILIPS



BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Begum Khaleida Zia addressing a meeting of the BNPPP at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. — Star photo

BNPPP meet

From Page 1

The decisions were taken in the BNPP Parliamentary Party meeting held yesterday at Sangsad Bhaban with Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleida Zia in the chair.

It gave special emphasis on raising the issue of arrest of four important leaders of the BNP in the House.

Meeting sources said it assigned KM Obaidur Rahman, Major (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, Fazlur Rahman Patol and Mashur Rahman for raising the issue strongly.

The BNPPP further decided to raise transit, sub-regional grouping, law and order and Ganges water issues and gave the responsibility to some influential MPs who have knowledge on those matters.

In the meeting, an MP suggested for building street movement and boycotting parliamentary standing committees.

At that stage, Begum Zia opined that the party should build movement both in Parliament and in the street and advised all members to raise issues in a disciplined way.

The BNPPP, however, was yet to take any decision as to whether it would join the parliamentary standing committees or not.

Ahead of announcement of results of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) election, the Majed-Gazi panel brought allegation against their pro-establishment rivals of manipulating the results, reports UNB.

The BMA election was held on May 8 and the results were not announced by the election commission till yesterday when the panel also accused the government of influencing the election.

Incumbent BMA President Dr. MA Majed, who was an adviser in the 1990-91 caretaker government of acting president Shahabuddin Ahmed, said the unofficial results from different districts reflected that there were widespread irregularities and rigging in the May 8 polls.

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After the walkout, five Treasury bench leaders including Zillur Rahman, Sajeda Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury and Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim spoke for almost an hour, criticising the BNP gesture. Some of them also urged the BNP to return to the House.

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Plan to reintroduce surcharge for bridges

The government is planning to reintroduce a surcharge to mobilise fund for construction of major bridges, including a bridge over the river Padma, Communications Minister Anwar Hossain told Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Steps in this respect would be taken shortly, he said while replying to questions by a number of members in the House.

The minister informed the House that a new government body titled Bangladesh Bridge Authority would also be formed in order to facilitate construction of bridges in the country.

He said the proposals would be placed before the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for consideration.

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Tk 200cr project to remove arsenic from water

The government has undertaken a Tk 200 crore project to remove arsenic from drinking water in the country, reports UNB.

This was disclosed by State Minister for LGED and Cooperative Alhaj Syed Abul Hossain while addressing a seminar in Dhaka yesterday.

The seminar titled 'procedure of removing arsenic from drinking water' organised by Engineers' Institution, was held at its auditorium. Senior engineer of Malcom company of the United State Dr. Zaid Kabir Chowdhury presented the keynote at the seminar.

The state minister said the government has also undertaken short, medium and long-term programmes to contain arsenic contamination.

At that stage, Begum Zia opined that the party should build movement both in Parliament and in the street and advised all members to raise issues in a disciplined way.

The BNPPP, however, was yet to take any decision as to whether it would join the parliamentary standing committees or not.

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