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Jatiya Party presidium member Col (Rtd) 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 home-land 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 beggars' 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."

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury visited some areas in northern region from where such reports came, but found no

BSF

From Page 1

denied 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 Kushiyara.

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.

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The Daily Star

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 Melandahana.

The clash ensued when policemen prevented the local people from helping some examinees in cheating at Melandahana 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 Raiganj thana of Sirajganj yesterday.

Sources said the clash ensued at Salanga Degree College centre at 12:55 pm as law enforcement 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 Raiganj 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 Kortia 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 police van 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.

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 Tuhin, Dr Illas and Dr Kajal Kanti who were arrested after the death of Asaduzzaman, an employee of AC (Land) office, at a local clinic.

JCD calls strike at DU

From Page 1

and Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) clashed with those of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, the student wing of Jatiya Party, trading gunshots. Ten persons were injured in the clash.

All examinations scheduled to be held today will also be within the purview of the strike. Shahiduddin Chowdhury, president of JCD, said while talking to The Daily Star.

JCD had earlier turned down an appeal by the Vice-Chancellor of the university to withdraw the strike. The VC held two rounds of talks with JCD leaders.

Meanwhile, the DU Syndicate, at a meeting yesterday, formed a four-member probe committee headed by treasurer of the university M. Shamsul Haq to investigate into Friday's incident. Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Kalam Azad Chowdhury presided over the meeting. The committee has been directed to submit its report as early as possible. Other members of the committee are: Syndicate member Dr Abdul Aziz, Assistant Proctor Rafiqullah Khan, DU-

The JCD rally was addressed, by among others, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney, Habib-Ul-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 Haq Shamim, Ishaq Ali Khan Panna and Bahadur Bepari.

The GCO rally at the Aparajyo Bangla was addressed, by among others, Hasan Hafizur Rahman Shohel, Abdullahil Kium and Ziaur Rahman Zia.

In reply, the Deputy Speaker said that if an MP submitted more than one notices, under rules, the Chair allows the first notice. "I am sorry, I cannot allow Prof Shahidul Islam to read out the notice which he wants to read." He also said, without elaborating, that there was even a ruling of the Chair on how to deal with such a situation.

In reply, the BNP legislator said that he had submitted three notices and all of those were rejected by the Chair. "I am, therefore, entitled to read out, within two minutes, any of the three rejected notices, and I have chosen the one on the deteriorating law and order," he asserted.

The Chair then switched off his microphone and called the next one to speak. Incidentally, the next five MPs who had given notices were from the BNP. One by one, all of them excitedly requested the Chair to allow Prof Shahidul Islam to speak. Refusing to entertain their requests, the Chair moved on to the sixth one, a notice on the need for setting up of a fire brigade station in your constituency and you are supposed to read out that notice," the Chair told him.

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Meanwhile, both the Deputy Leader and the Chief Whip of the Opposition were on their feet seeking the floor. But the Chair then called another ruling party MP. At this stage,

the leader of the Opposition stood up for the floor. Chief Whip of the Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdulla was seen at this stage asking the Chair to give the floor to Begum Zia. The Deputy Speaker gave the floor to her after the AL legislator had finished reading out his notice.

"I have stood not to deliver a speech, rather to request you to give the floor to Prof Shahidul Islam to read out the notice," Begum Zia said, adding that the Chair should allow the MPs when they want to speak about the problems of the people.

The Deputy Speaker retorted: "You are right, but the point you have missed is the question of acceptability by the Chair involved in this case."

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed then stood up to welcome Shaikh Razzak Ali's speech. He also

urged the parliamentarians not to dig out the past. "Let us all look forward for the sake of the people."

"It seems that the hands of the clocks move very fast when the Opposition MPs are on their feet, and it is the reverse in case of the Treasury Bench MPs," the Leader of the Opposition ob-

served. "Such partisan attitude indicates that you do not want the House to run effectively," she alleged and requested the Deputy Speaker to allow her party MP concerned to speak. "Otherwise we would be compelled to stage a walkout. Please do not compel us to do that."

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The former Speaker also told the House that the MPs of both the benches, especially those from the Treasury Bench, should show more tolerance for the sake of democracy and progress of the nation. He also urged the parliamentarians not to dig out the past. "Let us all look forward for the sake of the people."

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