

CPI delegation calls on Hasina

The visiting delegation of the Communist Party of India (CPI) led by its general secretary A B Bardhan called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Bangladesh Secretariat office yesterday, reports BSS.

The delegation was happy to see that Bangladesh was progressing well under the leadership of Prime Minister Hasina. They also observed that Bangladesh's relations with the neighbouring countries were improving.

The CPI delegation expressed their happiness at the signing of the Ganges Water Treaty with India and at the satisfactory progress towards the settlement of the Chakma refugee problem.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recalled the contributions of the government and people of India during the Liberation War of Bangladesh. She also stressed the need for increased cooperation with the neighbouring countries.

The delegation included Jalal Uddin Ansari, MP, Shamim Farazi, executive secretary, of CPI Raman Mujad and Sunil Mukherjee.

Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Mujahidul Islam Selim and Mohammad Shahid of Bangladesh Communist Party were also present.

Tk 260cr project taken up 650 more ideal villages to be established: Mosharraf

The government has taken up a project to establish another 650 ideal villages in the country at a cost of Tk 260 crore, reports UNB.

The project will be launched in next January, State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharraf told a seminar on "Democracy, Right to Land and Poverty alleviation" in the city yesterday.

Former Chief Justice Kamaluddin Hossain presided over the seminar, organised by Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), at the children's auditorium of National Museum. Some 600 NGO representatives, engaged in poverty alleviation activities, attended the seminar.

The government also constituted a 18-member steering committee to formulate a welfare and pro-people national land use policy, the minister informed the seminar.

The minister further said that the present government is successfully implementing the char development and poverty alleviation projects.

The government is now carrying out a scheme to establish multi-storied buildings on the khas land in Dhaka and

Gazipur districts, the state minister said adding that some 20 thousand slum families will be permanently rehabilitated there under the scheme.

Meanwhile, the government established 905 ideal villages in the country at a cost of Tk 68 crore and rehabilitated 36 thousand landless families.

The seminar was also addressed by Secretary of Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge Authority Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, president of ADAB Dr Kazi Farooq and President of the ALRD Khushi Kabir, said a PID hand-out.

PM receives donations for cyclone-hit people

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday received a cheque for Taka 7,33,993 at her secretariat office as donation for the cyclone affected people of the country, reports BSS.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, minister for Environment and Forest, handed over the cheque to the prime minister which is one day's salary of the officers and employees of her ministry and different departments under it.

Walker makes courtesy call on Shahabuddin

The UK High Commissioner to Bangladesh, David Critchlow Walker, made a courtesy call on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

During the call, Shahabuddin hoped that existing bilateral relations between the two countries would be further cemented during the tenure of the present Labour Party government in Britain.

He said Bangladesh always considers the UK as a trusted friend and partner in the country's development efforts.

Referring to the foreign policy of the new government, that emphasised on promotion of human rights and close co-operation among the nations for economic uplift, Walker expressed satisfaction as trade flows between the two countries are increasing both ways.



Lucky Akhand rendering a song at a function organised by the Happy Cultural Society at the TSC in the city yesterday. — Star photo

People urged not to punish anybody on suspicion of being child-lifter

The Home Ministry Tuesday urged the people to abstain from taking the law into their own hands by resorting to illegal acts like punishing anybody on suspicion of being a child-lifter, reports BSS.

In a statement, the ministry urged the people to inform the nearest law enforcing agencies of the suspicious person instead of resorting to illegal activities like beating or punishing.

Otherwise, the government would be compelled to take stringent action against such people as taking the law into their own hands, the statement categorically warned.

It said the government was firmly determined to deal severely with the child-lifters.

It has been observed with concern that several people were beaten to death recently only on suspicion of being child-lifters, the statement said, adding, "On one hand it (such illegal act) creates indiscipline in the public life and on the other, the vested quarters may kill innocent people taking the advantage of the situation."

UNB adds: Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AK Al Mamun also made a similar appeal to all. The DMP PABX number 842501-9 may be contacted for communicating messages to any thana police in the metropolis, said a press release.

Natore JP leaders, workers join BNP

Former Jatiya Party MP from Natore-4 Abul Kashem Sarker, along with 20 leaders and workers, joined BNP Tuesday, reports UNB.

The JP leaders from Natore Sadar, Gurudaspur, Abdullapur and Gopalpur formally joined BNP at a function at the official Minto road residence of the Leader of the Opposition Begum Zia welcomed the newcomers to her party and called upon them to uphold the image and ideals of BNP and its founder, late President Ziaur Rahman.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP, MPs from Natore Fazlur Rahman, Ruhul Quddus and Alhaj Golam Morshed and BNP leaders Ehsanul Kabir and Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan were present on the occasion.

'Country to be brought under mobile network'

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that all the districts of the country would be brought under mobile network in the private sector by May next year, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from M Dabirul Islam (AL-Thakurgaon), he said the government had a plan to introduce cellular telephone across the country and the matter was under scrutiny.

The minister disclosed that the government organisations owe over Taka 159.18 crore to T & T Board till April 1997 on account of telephone bills.

In reply to a question from advocate Mohammad Nadim Mostafa, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim said the authorities have requested the ministries concerned and organisations to pay off the outstanding bills.

JS special body meet held

A meeting of the parliamentary Special Committee for Scrutinising Bills was held at Sangsad Bhavan yesterday with its chairman Advocate Rahmat Ali in the chair, reports UNB.

The meeting, after scrutinising the bill relating to aircraft safety which was earlier placed in the House, finalised the special committee report for sending the same back to parliament.

Committee members Food & Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Forest & Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru and col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali attended the meeting.

State Minister for planning, Civil Aviation and Tourism Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir attended the meeting on special invitation. Civil Aviation Secretary Ismail Hossain was present.

JS body discusses 25 audit complaints

A meeting of the parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts was held yesterday with its chairman SM Akram MP in the chair, reports UNB.

The meeting discussed 25 audit complaints from Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation and two from the Agriculture Extension Department, both under the Agriculture Ministry.

It took several decisions for resolving the audit complaints raised by the Auditor and Comptroller General.

Committee members Vice-Principal M Abdus Shafid, Abul Kalam Azad, Mostafizur Rahman, Khandaker Asaduzzaman, Abdul Mannan and AHM Mustafa Kamal attended the meeting, held at Sangsad Bhavan.

Auditor & Comptroller General M Hafizuddin Khan, Agriculture Secretary Dr AMM Shawkat Ali and concerned senior officials were present.

Tk 607 cr given as term loan: JS told

An amount of Tk 607.41 crore was given as term loan to the industrial sector till December 31 of the current fiscal year (1996-97), Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria told parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Besides, a total of Tk 3040.90 crore was disbursed as working capital to the sector during the period, he said while replying to a question from Mohammad Shahjahan (Noakhali).

The highest amount of term loan of Tk 76.62 crore was provided by Sonali Bank.



Bangladesh Pani O Biddut Diploma Prokashali Samity (Bangladesh Water and Power Diploma Engineers' Association) brought out a procession in support of their various demands in the city yesterday. — Star photo

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