

Metropolitan

PM's meet-the-people programme

21 people meet her, speak of their problems, seek help



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina listening to problems of people from different walks of life as part of her meet-the-people programme at her Sangsad Bhaban office yesterday. — PID photo

A man whose 12-year-old daughter was raped and killed in 1995 met the Prime Minister yesterday to demand trial of the culprits, reports UNB.

"I want nothing but trial of the killers of my daughter," M A Halim Sikdar, a middle-aged freedom fighter, told Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Sangsad Bhaban office during her meet-the-people programme.

Halim alleged that his daughter, Merry Akhtar, was violated and murdered by "BNP terrorists" on July 31, 1995. "The killers are roaming around, but I did not get justice," said the crying father.

He said the then Home Minister had ordered the police to give the final report on the case. "A former MP of BNP offered me money to forget the incident, but I refused as I want justice and the trial of the killers," said Halim.

The Prime Minister directed the authorities concerned to revive the case of Merry for proper investigation to ensure dispensation of justice to a fa-

ther. Some 21 people met the Prime Minister during the nearly two-hour programme. They spoke of their personal problems and sought help from her.

A rickshawpuller of Feni town, who lost his daughter in a bomb blast during a hartal enforced by BNP in the district, came to Hasina with an appeal for his treatment and help for his family.

Tan Mia, along with his son and daughter, was injured in the bomb blast in the town on March 9 last. His daughter Nipu succumbed to her injury on April 12.

Tan Mia, who lost his ability to work, told the Prime Minister that he wants justice and trial of the terrorists. He said he intends to seek compensation from the BNP chairperson for the irreparable loss.

The Prime Minister donated some money to the affected family and directed officials to take Tan Mia to Pangu Hospital for treatment.

Sanjoy Dutta, a youngman

from Noakhali, said he received bullet injury during the last movement for caretaker government and was paralysed from the waist down.

The Prime Minister directed the officials to arrange for his treatment and phoned Dr Nurul Huq of Trauma Centre and asked him to take care of Sanjoy.

Mohammad Abul Hossain, a youngman from Feni, who lost one eye after receiving bullet injury during the caretaker government movement, also came to her with an appeal for treatment.

Hasina donated money and advised him to continue treatment to save his remaining eye.

Begum Rokaiya Rashid of a Shaheed family, who has been evicted from her government house, appealed for another house. The Prime Minister referred the matter to the Housing Ministry.

Nanzeen Farook came to the Prime Minister with an appeal for help to continue the study of her son. Several others came to the Prime Minister with appeals for jobs.

A retarded freedom fighter, Anwar Hossain, requested the Prime Minister for assistance. Some other freedom fighters and family members of freedom fighters also came for help.

Monwara Begum, ailing mother of a retarded girl, came to the PM from Barisal and appealed for her treatment. Hasina assured all possible help.

Abdur Razzak Khandaker came with an appeal for the treatment of his daughter. Begum Sultana Mujib, widow of a freedom fighter, came to the Prime Minister with his 26-year-old son for a job.

Another freedom fighter, Shamsul Alam, who lost his land and home in river erosion, came to the Prime Minister with an appeal for a job. The Prime Minister directed the officials to grant him khas land.

A Language Movement activist, Abul Kasem, came to Hasina asking for recognition as 'Bhasa Sainik'. The Prime Minister referred the case to the Bangla Academy.

An old man, Mejbah Uddin, journalist Bimal Kumar Dutta, Abdul Ali, Fatema Khatun, Protiva Rai Das, Abdur Rab Talukdar, and M Hamidul Huq also apprised the Prime Minister of their personal problems.

The Prime Minister assured some of them of help, donated money to some and expressed sympathy to others.

What's on today . . .

UNAB: In observance of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking, The United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) will hold a seminar. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 5-30 pm.

Rotary Club of Jahangirnagar Dhaka: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Officers' Club, Bailey Road. Time: 5-30 pm.

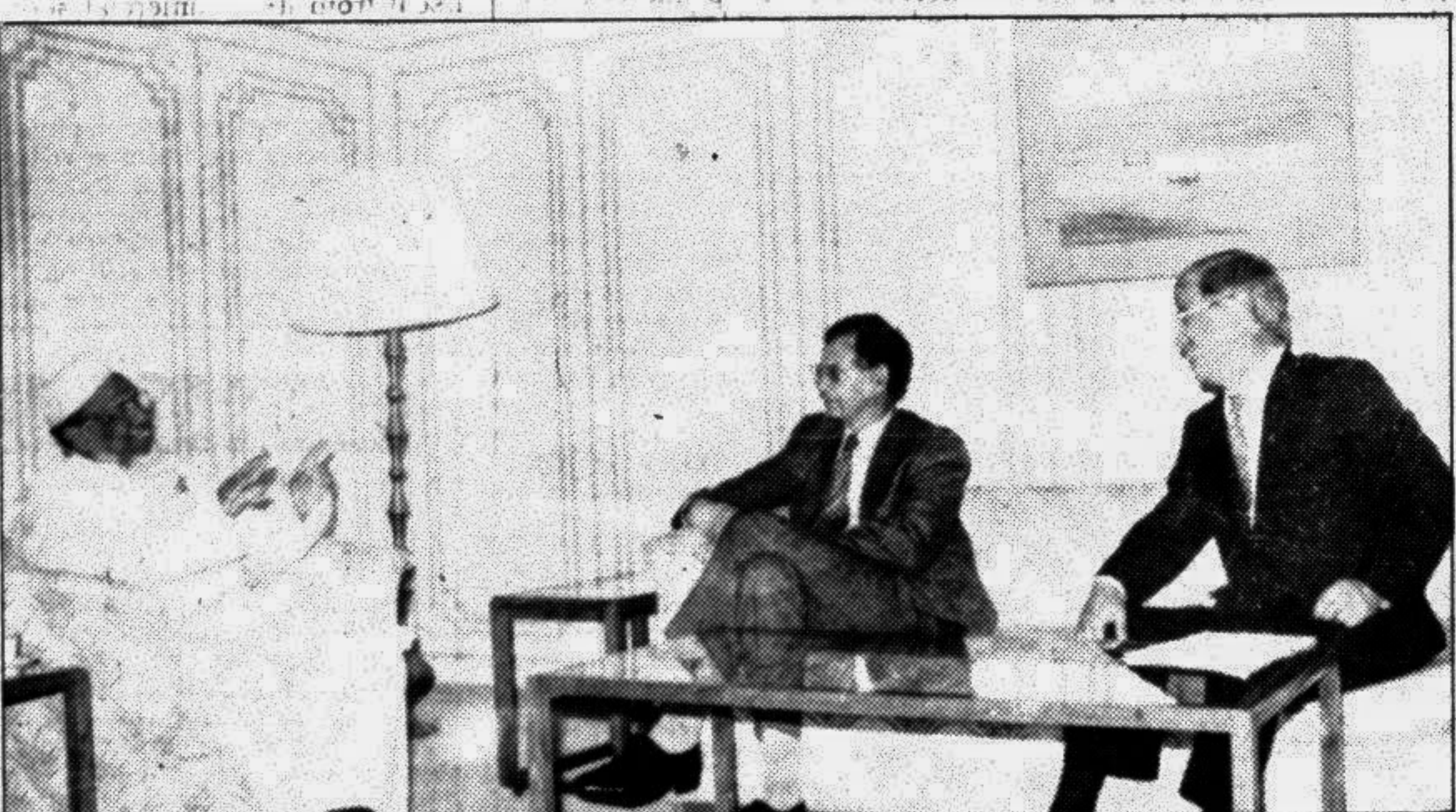
Seminar: The Community Development Library (CDL) and Lalmatia Girls' College will jointly organise a seminar on 'National Policy on Women's Advancement: A Challenge for the 21st Century'. Venue: Lalmatia Girls' College (Kazi Jalal Ahmed Administrative Building Room No 204). Time: 10 am. Chief guest: VC of National University Prof Aminul Islam.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission: In observance of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking a discussion meeting and a prize distribution ceremony will be held. The discussion has been organised by the Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Venue: Women Voluntary Association (WVA) auditorium, House No 20, Road No 16 (New), 27 (Old), Dhanmondi Residential Area. Time: 9-30 pm. Chief guest: Prof Dr M Amanullah, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.

Manik Mia Parishad: The parishad, in observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse will hold a discussion. Venue: 8/1, Court House Street. Time: 5-30 pm.

Dakkhin Bangla Juba Kallyan Samity: The samity and the Juba Unnayan Parishad will jointly hold a discussion on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse. Venue: Mazar premises of Sher-e-Bangla and Suhrawardy. Time: 4 pm.

Discussion: Nari Mukti Andolon and Garments Sramik Kendra (Garments Workers Centre) will jointly hold a discussion on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse. Venue: 5/10, Lalmatia. Time: 70 am.



British High Commissioner to Bangladesh David C Walker and Ambassador of Japan Yoshikazu Kaneko called on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at his office yesterday. — PID photo



Woman trafficked to Pakistan returns home after 5 yrs

By Staff Correspondent

Maksuda Begum, 26, who was trafficked to Pakistan five years ago returned to the country yesterday, through the good offices of the Bangladesh Mahila Ainjibi Samity (BMAS).

Salma Ali, the executive director of BMAS received her at the Zia International Airport, according to a press release.

Halima Begum, the mother of the victim had requested the samity for rescue of her daughter from Karachi Jail in Pakistan. The samity through the Foreign Ministry secured her release from Pakistani jail.

Maksuda said that she hails from the Nurpu Malanchi village of district Natore and that she was married at the age of 11 but divorced with two daughters after six years.

Following the divorce, she started to earn her living as a day-labourer at different construction sites, she told adding that from that earning she could save a little too.

Those savings were used for trading of vegetables from one place to another.

It was during one of this trading travels in train for Chapai Nawabganj that she met Muntaj, who was involved in smuggling of goods, she informed.

Muntaj allured her and two others Sharejan, 27 and Shahnaz, 26 to cross over to India and then trafficked to Pakistan.

The three women trafficked to Karachi in Pakistan were sold for 35,000 rupees each, by Muntaj, she informed.

CFSD opinion poll

61 pc for compulsory submission of income tax return

By Staff Correspondent

Nearly 61 per cent of respondents to a recently conducted opinion poll supported the issue of compulsory submission of income tax return by individuals owning a house/telephone/car.

The poll by Centre for Sustainable Development (CFSD) was conducted between June 19 and 21, a week after the budget was placed in the Jatiya Sangsad, with a sample of 711 respondents from Dhaka city and Narayanganj town, said a press release.

On the increased duties on spare parts for two-stroke vehicles, 60 per cent of the respondents observed that it would only lead to higher fares of autorickshaw, tempo and mishuk. This step of the government would not help reduce the air pollution, they observed.

According to the poll, 70 per cent of the respondents supported the social security for old and poor people proposed in the budget for 1997-98, the release added.

WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT 1997 of the World Bank On Sale in MIDAS

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Tel: 031-716231, 031-711017

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VACANCY for FINANCE MANAGER

Marie Stopes Clinic Society (affiliated to Marie Stopes International, London) is a rapidly expanding NGO working in the field of reproductive health and family planning in urban areas of Bangladesh with present operating budget approximately Tk.50 million. Currently there is a vacancy for a Finance Manager in its Dhaka office.

The position will have overall responsibility of organisation's financial management including financial planning, budgeting, financial control and donor reporting. The FM will directly report to the Country Director and will be responsible for guiding the finance team at Dhaka office and a team of Clinic Managers spread all over Bangladesh. S/he will closely work with programme, finance and administrative staff in Bangladesh as well as MSI/London. S/he will be responsible for professional development of other members of the finance team and will participate in all major organisational decisions.

The candidate must be CA, CMA, or MBA (Finance) with at least five years professional experience. Good leadership and inter-personal skills, fluency in English, experience in preparing donor reports, demonstrated capacity to document financial procedures and transfer skills are necessary. Knowledge of Windows based computer packages are required.

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Applications must reach to the Administrative Officer, Marie Stopes Clinic Society, 759 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka - 1209 by 08 July 1997.

Weather

Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind may occur at most places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet and Khulna divisions and many places of Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office also forecast moderate to heavy falls at places over Barisal, Chittagong and Khulna divisions.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest 24.0 degrees at Kutubdia.

The sun sets today at 6.50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.14 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.4	25.9	82	66
Chittagong	35.1	26.5	80	82
Rajshahi	35.4	26.4	72	63
Khulna	33.2	26.5	76	79
Barisal	32.6	25.8	82	84
Sylhet	35.0	24.5	90	73
Cox's Bazar	32.8	24.5	77	92

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