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## Hasina at reception in Edinburgh Govt making efforts for economic emancipation

EDINBURGH, Oct 27: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said her government had been making relentless efforts for economic emancipation of the people through massive poverty alleviation programmes for establishing people's right to food, reports BSS.

Speaking at a civic reception accorded to her by the Scotland Awami League at the Meadow Bank Stadium here, she said the government have been pursuing a comprehensive economic reform programmes in the light of the new world economic order.

Chaired by Scotland Awami League president Shahidul Alam Chowdhury, the reception was also addressed by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, State Minister for Health Prof Amanullah, Dr Mohammad Selim MP, David Martin, Vice President of European Parliament, Malcolm Chisholm, MP.

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Transport of Scotland government, Golam Anis Chowdhury, general secretary, Scotland Awami League, Shahnoor Chowdhury, organising secretary and Shahadat Hossain vice president.

Sheikh Hasina said "we have put forward a lucrative incentive package for the foreign investors to encourage them for investing in Bangladesh". She said the package included foreign ownership without limit, legal protection to investors against nationalisation, generous tax-holidays and unrestricted repatriation of capital and profits with capital gains.

She told the audience that a British company — Cairn Energy — has discovered substantial offshore and onshore gas reserves in Bangladesh. This has generated a tremendous amount of interest in oil and gas exploration in our country, she added.

## Showcouse on govt

From Page 1

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice A M M Hamidur Rahman and Justice Abu Sayeed Ahmed upon separate writ petitions at the order of the government to show cause as to why the provisions of the Surplus Government Servants Absorption Ordinance should not be declared ultra vires.

The court further directed the respondents to provide all the records relating to the suspended officers to the court.

Barrister Amir-ul-Islam assisted by Advocate Obaidur Rahman Mostafa moved the petitions, while Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan opposed those.

Deputy Directors of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption, Md Shahiduzzaman, Sirajul Haque, Abul Kashem Fakir, Abu Yusuf Mian, Samsul Alam, Wakilur Rahman and Mozammel Hossain were suspended from their office by an order dated October 7 issued by the Principal Secretary of the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

Barrister Amir-ul-Islam submitted that the petitioners obtained their service upon ap-

### CHT

From Page 1

terms and conditions in the parliament.

Nizami said: It's an attempt to pull out army and evict settlers from the hill tracts to appease the Santalbahini men and their masters outside the country. "People will never accept it," he warned.

## IJO review body meet ends

The two-day review committee meeting on the international agreement on jute and jute products concluded at the IJO headquarters in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

## CPD economic review

From Page 1

expanded into other industrial activities, the medium-term outlook for the balance of payments on this count may worsen rather than improve," Prof Mahmud observed.

On the other hand, the annual gross add disbursement of about 1.5 billion dollars in 1996-97 represents only a marginal improvement over that in 1995-96 and was lower than the level in the preceding years.

This implies that the decline in add disbursement in 1995-96 cannot perhaps be attributed entirely to the political unrest of that year. Rather, stricter aid conditionalities can also contribute to the trend.

The growth of GDP, after stagnating around a trend rate of about four per cent annually for the last 15 years or so, has shown some signs of improvement.

### JSD

From Page 1

The meeting decided that on the basis of spirit of the freedom struggle and in light of its original announcement of 1972 the factious and economic development of the Bengali nation and for implementing its non-communal democratic and socialist ideology.

The meeting, presided over by JSD Secretary General and Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rob, was attended, among others, by Nure Alam Jiku, Syed Jafar Sajjad and Abdul Malek Ratan.

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## Dhaka WASA MD sees massive water pollution

Dhaka WASA's chief executive Dr K Azharul Haq yesterday cautioned that the problem of getting pollution-free water was looming large, signalling a crisis ahead, reports UNB.

If proper action is not taken now, the problem will go beyond control, said the managing director of Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority in a workshop that discussed the growing problem of environment pollution in the capital.

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Dhaka WASA jointly organised the workshop at the DCCI auditorium to wrap up a training course on Cleaner Production Programme for tanneries held earlier.

Dr Haq sounded the note of warning after DCCI president ASM Quasem acknowledged that wastes of various industries were heavily polluting the surface-water resources around the capital city.

There were different types of industries causing the water pollution, the DCCI chief observed and identified the tanneries as the main source of water pollution in the city.

But again, said Quasem, the tannery sector is one of the country's major foreign exchange earners. He suggested that the problem could be tackled through a cleaner production programme in the tannery units.

Quasem said as the groundwater table was falling, in the

near future it would be necessary to use both surface and ground water. "So it is necessary to protect both surface and ground water sources from industrial pollution."

The chamber leader pointed out that a cleaner production programme, in fact, would lead to improved productivity through cost-cutting.

While referring to massive pollution of water resources, the WASA managing director said in such a situation, the city would not get clean water, either from underground or from the surface.

And river Buriganga would have only contaminated water. Dr Haq said and called for a joint action by the industrialists, Dhaka WASA and other quarters concerned to have pollution-free water supply for the city.

In his key-note speech, M Thiruchelvam, a World Bank consultant on environmental engineering, said the cleaner production-programme concept is a new one and Bangladesh is not much behind others to go for such a scheme.

The most important part of it is reducing the waste at the source, and for that what is necessary is a basic change in the behavioural pattern of the entrepreneurs, he pointed out.

Thiruchelvam gave a step-by-step analysis of the methodology for achieving a cleaner production programme.

## Geneva meet on LDCs

From Page 1

Ahmed is leading the Bangladesh team and performing the role of spokesman for the 48-member LDCs group.

Being held at the headquarters of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, the meeting has been organised by WTO in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre (ITC).

The meeting is being attended by International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the G-8 countries, EU OECD, the G-130 member countries and trade ministers of the LDCs.

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Tofael Ahmed, apart from coordinating the LDCs, is pursuing the goal of improved market access for LDC products with representatives of the developed and developing countries attending the meeting.

The opening session was chaired by the Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation Jan Pronk and addressed by the WTO Secretary General Renato Ruggiero, UNCTAD Secretary General Rubens Ricupers and ITC Executive Director Denis Belisle.

All the speakers expressed their solidarity to foster a coherent and integrated approach to assisting LDCs in enhancing their trading opportunities.

Tofael requested the countries to explain in details and concrete manner about the items for duty-free access so that the LDCs could easily avail the opportunities for their export development and technical improvement.

In the twin process of globalisation and liberalisation, the Bangladesh minister said, the LDCs are ready to face the challenges. "But we need full preferential treatment," he added.

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President Samson H Chowdhury is attending the meeting as a member of Bangladesh delegation while businessman Abdul Awal Mintoo is attending at the invitation of WTO.

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The launch reached Barisal at about 9 pm.

The newspapers and magazines are Dainik Bangla, the Bangladesh Times, weekly Bichitra and fortnightly Ananda Bichitra.

An official announcement yesterday said the Finance Ministry also directed formation of audit teams which will determine payoff for the journalists, officials, press workers and employees of the trust under the voluntary-retirement scheme.

The audit teams will be formed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh. Financial claims and other facilities of all concerned will be paid off on the basis of report by the audit teams after verifying those under present rules and regulations.

The announcement said the cell would collect and present to the teams the documents, service records, salary and other payment claims of the working journalists, officials, press workers and all departmental employees of the dailies and magazines.

The teachers at a meeting today with Principal ASM Anisur Rahman in the chair decided to continue boycott of classes if the examinees responsible for manhandling the teacher were not arrested.

## Bangabandhu Murder Case

From Page 1

Mostafiz who was only seven years old at that time and later lost his mother on September 10, 1992.

He said: "My mother, younger brother Mahfuzur Rahman and I were informed and saw the body of my father during the Janaza at Rajbari police line."

"Later the body was taken to our Mirpur house under the supervision of police and buried at Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard at Mirpur Section 1," he said.

During his cross-examination by advocate Abdur Razzaq Khan, Mostafiz told the court that he didn't file any case as the environment was not favourable and he was a minor.

"I don't know if there was any investigation into the death of my father," he replied to another question.

The PW-32, Havildar (retd) A K M Sajedul Haq, was a sepoy of Headquarters Battery of 2 Field Artillery during the assassination of Bangabandhu.

Beginning his deposition the witness told the court that Major Khandaker Abdur Rashid was Commanding Officer of the regiment.

There were four batteries in Artillery and Major Muhiuddin was Commander of Papa Battery while Captain Mostafa of Headquarters Battery.

The witness said they fell in the evening on August 14 for a night parade. CO Major Rashid, Major Muhiuddin, Major Jobayer Siddiqui, Captain Mostafa and Lt Hasan were also present.

"We in a road march reached New Airport for the night parade at about 10 pm," Sajedul said, adding that Lt Hasan accompanied them.

He said Havildar Major Mostafiz again called for a fall-in at about 3 to 3:30 am August 15. The PW saw Major Rashid, Major Jobayer Siddiqui, Captain Mostafa, Captain Jahangir and Lt Hasan there.

Commanding Officer Major Khandaker Abdur Rashid," he said.

The PW said Havildar Major Mostafiz divided them in three to four groups and boarded them on trucks at the order of CO Major Rashid.

"Before that, armoured NCO Naik Shamsul Islam gave us ammunition," the then Artillery sepoy said, adding he was carrying an SLR and took 10 bullets.

He said their truck started before the qan of Fazr prayer and Lt Hasan asked three to four of them to get down in front of Tejgaon Airport.

"After we got down, Lt Hasan posted us there on duty asking not to allow movement of any civil transport or person on road," the witness recalled and said later Hasan left the point.

After some time, he said, they heard Fazr qan and firing shortly afterwards from south-westerly direction. "But I could not guess from where and why the firing was going on."

He said: "At about 6 to 6:30 am we came to know from the army personnel going to cantonment that our people had killed President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

"We were withdrawn in the afternoon, and after returning to unit, I came to know that Major Dalim announced on radio that Bangabandhu had been killed and Khandaker Mush-taque became President," said the witness.

The retired havildar said: "Then we realised how officers backed the troops out into bluffing the killing of Bangabandhu in the name of night parade."

"Later, I also came to know that Major Farooq, Major Rashid, Major Dalim, Major Noor, Major Aziz Pasha, Capt Bazzul Huda, Major Muhiuddin (Artillery) and Major Rashid Chowdhury had committed the killings," he told the court concluding his deposition.

## AL workers complain about power failures

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League workers complained about frequent power failures in the country and demanded an immediate redress to the problem when Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Nooruddin Khan visited the party's central office to attend meet-the-party workers' programme last night.

The minister admitted load-shedding problem and told the party workers that all efforts were being made to improve the power supply situation in the country.

Nooruddin Khan lauded the role of a local MP in disconnecting many illegal electric connections in the city's Mirpur area and urged others to come up with similar initiatives.

Minister of State for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleq also took part in yesterday's meet-the-party workers' programme. City AL leader Akhtarul Alam conducted the programme.

## Launch dacoity in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 27: A gang of armed dacoits swooped on a passenger launch last evening in Kalabadar river near Sreepur Bandar under Mehendiganj thana of the district.

According to police and witnesses, the Barisal-bound passenger launch ML Shahabazzpur from Bhola came under attack by the dacoits at about 5:30 pm after it left the Sreepur station.

They attacked the crews, sareng and passengers of the launch and beat them mercilessly, leaving 18 injured. They took away gold ornaments, cash money and other valuables worth about Tk 18 lakh.

The dacoits after nearly an hour operation decamped at Larianchar from where they boarded on a trawler and went towards Bhola, the witnesses said.

The launch reached Barisal at about 9 pm.

## Edward College teachers start boycotting classes

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Oct 27: Teachers of the Edward College today began boycotting classes for an indefinite period protesting assault on a teacher by some students on Sunday, college sources said.

Mohidul Islam, a lecturer of Chemistry Department was beaten up by some students when he prevented Polash, an honours examinee, from adopting unfair means in the examination.

The teachers at a meeting today with Principal ASM Anisur Rahman in the chair decided to continue boycott of classes if the examinees responsible for manhandling the teacher were not arrested.

## Khaleda warns govt

From Page 1

Referring to her on-going contacts with other opposition parties and various social forces, Begum Zia said all patriotic citizens must unite against the AL government which, she said, was destroying the country in a planned way.

The opposition leader repeated the allegation that her party was not allowed to speak in the Jatiya Sangsad. "We are willing to return to Parliament. But what's the use of sitting there unless we're allowed to speak on issues of public interest."

BNP abstained from attending parliament session since the opening day of the last session on August 30. The next is due to begin on November 2.

The former prime minister warned police not to serve partisan interests by assaulting her party activists on the streets and asked those who are being forced to do so, to defy such 'illegal' orders. "You'll have to stay and serve in this country... on return to power we'll take care of you," she said.

Advising the policemen to perform duties neutrally as servant of the people, she also assured of compensation for any loss caused to them because of their fair performance.

The BNP leader also accused the ruling party of 'engaging its armed terrorists' to foil her party's democratic agitation and 'using police as a political force' purposes.

Quoting a government announcement that there is no restriction on street processions, Begum Zia asked, if it is so then why BNP processions are attacked by police. "If we accept that the announcement was designed to improve the government's image, then why the authorities are not taking action against the persons responsible?"

Begum Zia came down heavily on the AL government for its planned agreement on the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) saying the CHT would be handed over to India through it. She termed it a 'conspiracy' on CHT, and called upon all 'nationalist, patriotic and Islamic forces to resist the move.

Chaired by the Juba Dal President Mirza Abbas, the function was also addressed by BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP, Standing Committee members M Saifur Rahman MP, Abdus Salam Talukdar, Dr Khandakar Mahabub Hossain MP, Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqi, central leaders Selima Rahman, Haris Chowdhury, Fazlur Rahman Patal MP and Juba Dal leaders including Goyeshwar Roy and Barqatullah Bhulu.

Anisuzzaman made BSS Chief Editor

M Anisuzzaman, Advisory Editor of the Daily Khabar has been appointed the Managing Director and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), reports BSS.

According to an official handout the government appointed him on a one year contract.

## AL-BNP clash in Sirajganj: 25 injured

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 27: Twenty-five people were injured today, 10 with bullet, in a clash between Awami League and BNP activists at a college in Kazipur thana, reports UNB.

Local sources said the fighting was sequel to Sunday's clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal supporters over vote-counting of the election to Tengladha RIM Degree College students union, which also left 40 people wounded.

The feuding groups traded nearly 20 gunshots and exploded crude bombs during two-hour clash from 8 am to 10 am.

Police lobbed teargas shells and bought the situation under control.

Eight houses of the supporters of both the sides were damaged.

Of the injured, local BNP leaders Rafiq, Baten and Zahur, VP candidate from BCL Abu Taher and AL's Abul Hossain and Abdus Sattar were admitted to different hospitals and clinics in the town.

## CHOGM ends

From Page 1

Heads of the government expressed their belief that an International Criminal Court (ICC) would be an important development in the international promotion of the rule of law.

They in the communiqué expressed support for the efforts of the UN Preparatory Committee to negotiate a statute for ICC and encouraged participation in those negotiations and in the Plenipotentiary Conference next year by as many Commonwealth countries as possible.

The heads of government accepted with great pleasure the offer of the government of South Africa to host their next meeting in 1999 and the offer of Australia to be host in 2001.

## Govt employees

From Page 1

part of their campaign to press the demand for upward revision of the new pay scale and change in office hours.

Their rivals want a 10 per cent rise in pay but opposes his leadership of the Samity, he said.

The two groups had been at loggerheads for a long time and clashed occasionally in the recent past. Their rivalry led police to keep the office of Sachibabala Karmachari Sanjukta Parishad locked.

Supporters of Zafar Ahmed, who were attacked by their rivals, later regrouped and tried to stage demonstrations outside. But riot police pushed them into a corner of the 20-storied building. They were, however, allowed to hold a rally.

Haibur Rahman, Zafar Ahmed and Arafat Ali, among others, addressed the rally and reiterated their demand for upward revision of the pay scale.

Later in the afternoon, they had a meeting with the officials of Prime Minister's Office. They were urged to postpone their agitation programme till the return of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from UK on October 31, Zafar Ahmed told The Daily Star last night.

"They will discuss the issue at today's meeting at the Secretariat at 10 am, he said.

Rallies were also held at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, attended by employees from the ERD, Planning Commission and Election Commission. They also demanded revision of the new pay scale.

Legal action will also be taken against the driver concerned for violation of the order.