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Hasina attends luncheon by Khatami

TEHRAN, Dec 9: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today attended a luncheon hosted by President Seyyed Mohammad Khatami in honour of the visiting heads of government and state at a city hotel, reports BSS.

Meanwhile, Crown Prince of Jordan Hassan Bin Tallal made a courtesy call on Sheikh Hasina at the conference centre this afternoon.

Sheikh Hasina referred to the excellent investment climate in Bangladesh and said Jordan could avail the opportunity to the common benefit of the two peoples.

Hasina also pointed out that Jordan could employ skilled and semi-skilled people from Bangladesh in his country. She invited the Prince to visit Bangladesh.

The Crown Prince accepted the invitation and said he would pay a visit to Bangladesh sometime next year.

'Sink differences for country's development'

TEHRAN, Dec 9: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the people to sink their differences and contribute to the development of the country, reports BSS.

Speaking at a reception hosted in her honour by the Bangladeshi ambassador to Tehran, Syed Muazzem Ali last night, Sheikh Hasina said "we all have our views on various issues, but we should sink all differences for the sake of development, progress and prosperity of Bangladesh."

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and ambassador Syed Muazzem Ali also spoke.

The Prime Minister said that the objective of her government is to establish hunger and poverty-free society.

Sheikh Hasina said in the past 17 months her government has solved a number of problems including historic water agreement with India and peace accord on Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Turning to terrorism, she said "I cannot claim to have contained terrorism 100 per cent," but it has been significantly reduced. She said the opposition BNP was causing hindrance to curbing terrorism in the country.

Sangskritik Jote

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tural Affairs Obaidul Kader, poet Shamsur Rahman and Syed Hasan Imam will be present as special guests.

Golam Qudus, the coordinator of the programmes will deliver the address of welcome and Hasan Arif will read out the declaration. Asaduzzaman Noor and Nasiruddin Yusuf Bachchu will address the opening function.

Programmes will also be held at the Bakultala of the Fine Arts Institute. Poet Nasima Sultan Abritti Munch, Sarak Deep, Ranesh Dasgupta Lokoja Munch, northern corner of the mazar of three leaders, Shams Iran Film Munch, playground of the Dhaka University and Shambhu Mitra Natya Munch.

Besides, patriotic songs, dances, poetry recitation, and performances by the artists of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra will take place at the central Shaheed Minar.

Display of the documents on Liberation War and a photography exhibition will be held at the TSC. A folk fair and book exhibition will also be organised on the footpath in front of the Bangla Academy.

Share Scam

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and Barrister Rafiqul Huq had argued that the proceedings against them were drawn without proper authorisation of Section 25 of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969. The arrest warrants were issued instead of summons, without applying the judicial mind of the Magistrate, they argued.

The HC held that there was substantial compliance of Section 25 of the Ordinance and cognizance was properly taken. Moreover, the enquiry committee report, pursuant to Section 21 of the Ordinance, satisfied the requirement of Section 25 of the Ordinance and ruled that the proceedings should continue against the accused.

Attorney General K S Nabi, appearing for the state argued that the reference was incompetent under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Dr M Zahir assisted by Dr A K M Ali and Barrister Khaled Hamid Chowdhury appeared on behalf of the SEC. Advocate Serajul Huq and Barrister Rafiqul Huq appeared for the accused.

Editor : Mahfuz Anam

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in Tehran on Monday. — PID photo

OIC summit opens in Tehran

Khamenei blasts US, calls to liberate Palestine

TEHRAN, Dec 9: Iran's paramount leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei opened the eighth Islamic Summit here today with a rallying call for the liberation of Palestine and a fiery blast at the United States, reported AFP.

"Until now it is the enemy which has the initiative and we have only ourselves to blame," Khamenei told representatives of the 55 members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

"The enemy propaganda is trying to tarnish the image of Islam... the Zionists and above all, the United States are behind this campaign, the ones who have suffered the biggest losses from our revolution," he said.

Throughout he stressed the summit's theme of Islamic unity, saying the Muslim World should coordinate to shape the future of the planet and defeat the corrupt culture of the West.

"The culture of the civilisation of the West is pushing the world towards materialism, money, gluttony and lust are become the highest values," he said.

But Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, who addressed delegates shortly afterwards, struck a much more conciliatory tone towards the West.

"It is necessary to know the West, there are so many positive achievements by the Western world that non-westerners can learn from," said Khatami, a moderate who won a surprise landslide victory in May elections.

"Peace in return for land that is a surprise. That means that the Zionists will give back

There is a difference be-

tween Islamic civilisation and Greco-Roman, but no conflict... we should be open to other points of view."

But on Israel he echoed the tough tone of Khamenei.

"Israel has a bellicose, racist and terrorist nature, and its search for weapons of mass destruction is a threat to regional stability," he said.

Mobile courts to check plying of illegal rickshaws

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka City Corporation and DMP jointly introduced mobile courts yesterday to check the movement of illegal rickshaws and rickshaw vans in the city for easing traffic jam.

Headed by first class magistrates, the courts would be conducted every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. The illegal rickshaws will be seized and confiscated, said a DCC press release.

Meanwhile, the DCC has requested all concerned to stop plying of non-motorised vehicles, including rickshaws, in the Motijheel, Dilkusha and DIT Avenue areas from 8 am to 6 pm.

It was further learnt that the Investment Committee which guides the Negotiation Committee is divided over the policy so far followed in the negotiations.

Sources said that the Energy Secretary, a member of the four members Investment Committee, was criticised by the other members at a meeting last week. As a result, convenor of the committee, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, sought advise from the Prime Minister last week on the guidelines for negotiation. The Prime Minister then asked the committee to invite all the companies to the negotiation table.

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