



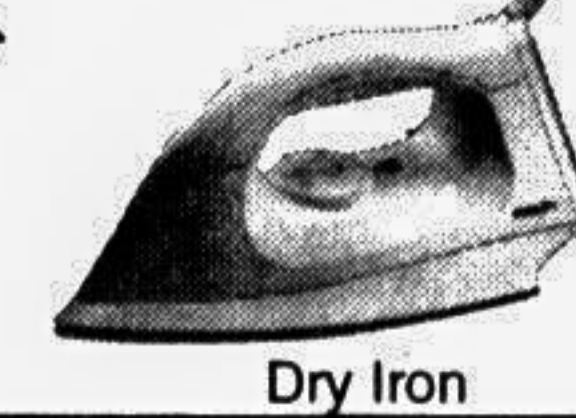
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PHILIPS

Dhaka's call at NAM summit Eliminate all N-arms in non-discriminatory way

DURBAN, Sept 3: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today sought an end to all nuclear weapons in a comprehensive and non-discriminatory way to ensure global peace and security, reports UNB.

"We believe, however, that the time has come for concrete steps for the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction," she said in her speech to the 12th conference of NAM in South Africa.

The speech of the prime minister was read out by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad who led the Bangladesh delegation to the conference.

Hasina, earlier, cancelled her programme to attend the Non-Aligned Summit in the wake of severe flooding in the country.

The two-day conference was presided over by South African President Nelson Mandela.

In her speech, Hasina referred to the commitment of the

Non-Aligned Movement to complete disarmament of all nuclear weapons and said: "In Bangladesh it is our constitutional commitment to promote general and total disarmament."

Towards that end, she said, Bangladesh joined the great majority of the member nations of the United Nations in signing the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Hasina expressed her anxiety over the nuclear arms race in South Asia. The prime minister, however, said both India and Pakistan have declared a moratorium on further tests.

Hasina who undertook peace mission to New Delhi and Islamabad in June last following nuclear tests by India and Pakistan in May, said the resumption of bilateral talks between India and Pakistan on the sidelines of the Colombo SAARC summit in July is most encouraging.

The prime minister said "We believe that our principal concern must be the economic development of South Asia which remains among the poorest regions of the world."

She said this can be done by tapping the resources for economic and social development under the SAARC framework.

Sheikh Hasina said the successful holding of the tripartite business summit involving India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in Dhaka has shown that "We have political will to sit together in a spirit of cooperation for our common good."

The prime minister hoped that the three countries would be able to hold review meetings on a regular basis to promote understanding and cooperation in the region.

About the future task of NAM, Hasina said Durban summit will have to prepare a blueprint of the role of the



Students of Jahangirnagar University gheraoed the VC's office yesterday while a Syndicate meeting was going on.

JU expels 2 BCL leaders for assaulting teacher

By JU Correspondent

Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities yesterday expelled two leaders of the ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) for assaulting a teacher of the university on August 23.

Meanwhile, students under the banners of General Students Unity (GSU), Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) and the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, started a fast-unto-death in front of the VC's office protesting the authorities' failure to punish the culprits in rapes of three students of the university. The fasting was continuing till filing this report at 11:30 pm yesterday.

The tenure of the 'Fact Finding Committee,' formed to probe the rape cases, were extended for more investigations, syndicate sources said.

JU BCL general secretary Jasimuddin Manik was expelled for a period of one year. Another BCL leader Meer Mehedi Hasan Titu was expelled for two years with a fine of Tk 5,000. Three other BCL leaders accused of assaulting the teacher Rehnema Ahmed, were however, acquitted of charges 'for lack of evidence' against them, JU Syndicate source said.

BCL brought out a procession on the campus and threatened of dire consequences for the expulsions of their leaders.

JU Syndicate, at a meeting with the VC Prof Alauddin Ahmed in the chair, yesterday finalised the expulsions following recommendation by Disciplinary Committee. The Committee forwarded the recommendations after examining statements of the five accused BCL leaders, the complainant and witnesses.

Activists of GSU, GCO and the JCD earlier gheraoed the VC's office yesterday where the Syndicate meeting was being held.

The GSU, GCO and the JCD also brought out separate processions demanding actions against those involved in assaulting the teacher and raping three students of the university in the last three months.

Tension is heightening on the campus amidst fears of a clash between BCL and other organisations, including the GSU, GCO and JCD.

A huge contingent of police have been kept on alert at the gates of the university.

BCL activists assaulted two students of Al-Beruni Hall for their active participation in the current agitation. An increased number of outsiders were seen roaming around the halls.

Syndicate yesterday appointed associate professor of Physics Abdul Mannan Chowdhury as the university's proctor for a two-year term.

Transport strike in 16 N-dists from tomorrow

By Star photo

PABNA, Sept 3: Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation has called an indefinite strike in 16 northern districts from Saturday demanding release of its arrested leaders and workers, reports UNB.

This was decided at a meeting of the North Bengal regional committee of the federation in Bogra today.

Police arrested 10 leaders and workers of the federation including Rangpur Motor Sramik Union Secretary Abul Kalam about two months ago.

Representatives of 29 organisations of the federation from different districts attended the meeting to press home their demand.

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Asma to get free treatment Stern action in case of any negligence: State Minister

By Naimul Haq

The health ministry would take stern action against the doctors concerned if Asma Begum's kidney removal was found to be a case of negligence, warned Prof M Amanullah, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare, while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

"I have read about the incident in the national dailies but we will wait until the investigation report on the incident is received," he said.

Asked about the 'mistake' that endangered Asma's life the state minister said, "A doctor cannot be held responsible for any unintentional error or poor quality performance of surgery but negligence will be seriously dealt with."

In the case of Asma, he said "what I have learned from newspaper reports, her diseased kidney was removed. This was quite right if the doctor concerned was competent enough to decide to cut off the diseased kidney because there was no alternative, even if there was an urologist present at the Gynae Operation Theatre during the operation."

Asked if Asma's kidney was found damaged and if it could be saved by consulting an urologist, the state minister said only a biopsy report of the 'eliminated' kidney can say if the kidney was diseased or not. He, however, did not rule out that the doctor concerned had scope of consulting an urologist.

Asked if the health ministry would pay compensation to Asma, Prof Amanullah said the health ministry would provide her necessary medical treatment free of cost as long as she needs. He declined to say anything about financial assistance for Asma.

Ruling out any possibility of kidney being stolen for money, he said "Methodically, kidney trade is not possible at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) because it lacks logistics for transplantation process. If kidney is to be transplanted, the question of tissue crossmatching arises which is also not possible at DMCH. So, the newspaper reports on kidney robbery is completely baseless."

Asma's only functioning kidney was mistakenly removed by doctors at DMCH during operation on August 11. Asma now lives on costly haemodialysis treatment that cleans her body waste accumulated every day. According to Dr Mahmuda Khatun, one of the doctors who helped remove the kidney, Asma's other kidney was 'missing' (congenital absence of kidney tissue) since birth.

Doctors said Asma badly needs a kidney transplantation for a safe and healthy life. She is at a real risk, living without any kidney.

Meanwhile, the High Court on Wednesday issued a rule nisi on the Health Secretary, Principal of DMCH, Prof Mahmuda Khatun, Dr Golam Mostafa and Dr Fatema Begum of DMCH, asking them to explain why the removal of Asma Begum's kidney should not be declared illegal.

UNB adds: Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday visited Asma at the DMCH.

The minister inquired about her treatment and directed the probe body to investigate into the matter impartially.

Meanwhile, National Garment Workers' Association held a protest rally at the emergency gate of DMCH yesterday demanding arrest and confiscation of all the certificates of the doctor who performed the operation.

The speakers at the rally, chaired by president of the association Mujibur Rahman, threatened tough agitation if their demands were not met and if Asma dies.

They also urged the government to provide a kidney to Asma for her survival.

Shibir calls hartal in Ctg on Sept 7

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 3: Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) of Chittagang University unit called a day-long hartal in greater Chittagang on September 7 to press home its five-point demand.

Earlier, Shibir extended its siege programme on the campus till September 7 to press their demands that include rehabilitation of their activists in residential halls and withdrawal of cases against them.

At least 800 general students under the banner of Bakul Smriti Sangsad brought out a mourning procession on the campus today to observe the first death anniversary of Aminul Islam Bakul who was killed allegedly by Shibir terrorists on this day last year.

Meanwhile, Chittagang University Teachers' Association (CUTA) announced that they would boycott classes on September 8, in protest against Shibir's attack on five teachers' buses during their siege programme.

The minister at a press briefing at his Chittagang port rest house informed that the deputy minister was busy meeting with different groups including an ADB team.

Meanwhile, port users and shippers expressed their concern at the work stoppage at Chittagang Port that is already in the grip of a congestion, shipping circles said.

UNB adds: Deputy Minister for Shipping Saber Hossain Chowdhury condemned today's incident at Chittagang port and urged the labour organisations to withdraw their strike.

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