

Nasim tells newsmen

Govt ready for talks with opposition anytime, anywhere

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday said an elected democratic government could not be browbeaten and asked the opposition to sit down for talks to settle disputes, reports UNB.

Talking to newsmen at his office yesterday afternoon, he reminded: "We are not only elected, we are also a strong government. It cannot be toppled by the opposition's threat."

"Rather they (Opposition) are losing strength by this movement," said Nasim, alleging that they were trying to create troubles to stall some of our steps such as the trial of Bangabandhu's killers.

He said the government, by any means, would contain their moves to create instability in the country.

Responding to another question, the Home Minister said he was likely to talk with BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan to offer to sit for dialogue.

"We are ready to sit with the opposition anytime at any place with an open agenda," he said.

Denouncing yesterday's

shutdown enforced by some of the opposition parties, including BNP, the Home Minister said he found no reason for "this unnecessary and unjustified hartal."

"Hartal is no more a parametre of popularity," he said. "There is no doubt that it (hartal) is an instrument for political movement, but they have made it ineffective by using it unnecessarily."

To a query, Mohammad Nasim said the opposition was not getting anything out of it (hartal) except for causing misery to the working classes of society. "Commonman, mainly the working-class people, are hurt by the bombs used during hartal hours."

The ruling party respects the opposition and respects their opinions, said the minister. "But hartal has no link with people's interest. Calling hartal is nothing but punishing the general people."

Rejecting the opposition's demand for Chief Election Commissioner's removal, he questioned: "How can you demand that unless there is a sin-

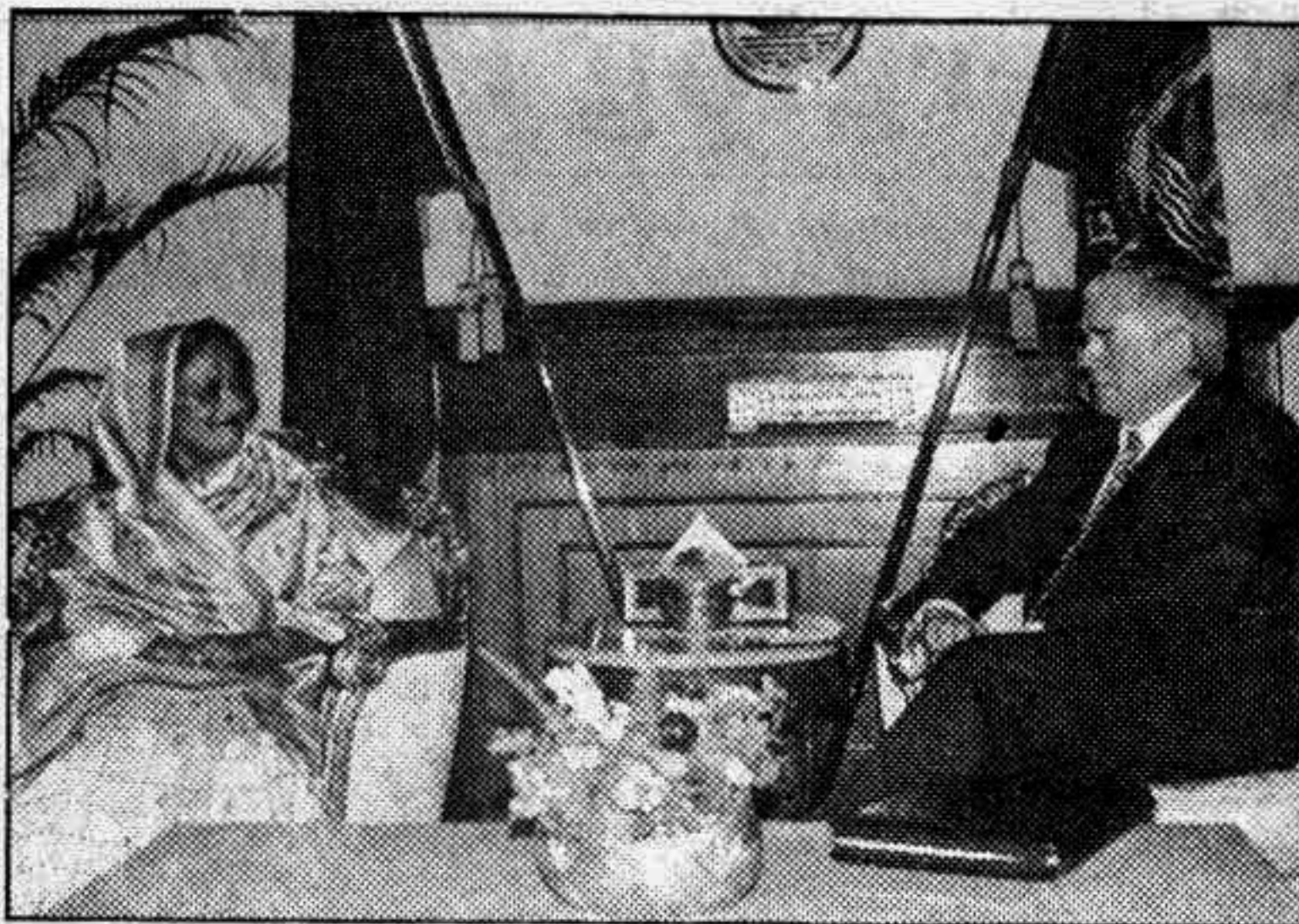
gle proof that he is not neutral."

Regarding protests against electricity and water crisis, he said: "We have always acknowledged these problems. The Prime Minister herself acknowledged it. We don't say we have solved these problems. What we say is that we will definitely solve it like we have solved many of the longstanding problems."

The Home Minister was asked why Muhibur Rahman Manik MP was not arrested when an opposition lawmaker, Alamgir Kabir was held on same allegation. "The opposition MP was arrested as his name was in the FIR and Manik's name was not listed in it."

"However, I have ordered he be interrogated. He will not be spared if his involvement is found in the bomb explosions."

Regarding action against an armed terrorist whose picture (holding arms) was printed in some of the newspapers, the Home Minister said: "I have issued orders to catch him at any cost. Police have identified him and are trying to run him in."



Poul Nielson, Danish Minister for Development Cooperation, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday. — PID photo

2 female freedom fighters to be honoured today

Two female freedom fighters are going to be honoured 27 long years after the Liberation War ended, reports UNB.

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmla Committee will accord a reception to the hitherto unsung fighters — Meherunnesa and Halima Khatun — at the inaugural session of its two-day national conference which begins in the city today.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury and poet Shamsur Rahman will inaugurate the conference at Dhaka University TSC in the morning.

Before the reception for the two freedom fighters, now working as maids, the Nirmla Committee will bring out an anti-communalism and anti-fundamentalism procession in the city.

Committee leader Shahrir Kabir said fresh programmes would be chalked out at the conference to strengthen the movement against war criminals, launched by late Jahannara Imam.

Sajeda to attend CCGE meeting

Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury left for USA yesterday to join Commonwealth Consultative Group of Environment (CCGE) meeting tomorrow, reports UNB.

Led by the minister, a three-member Bangladesh delegation will attend the international meet in New York.

The meeting will discuss various aspects of accelerating sustainable development efforts in the small developing countries through solving environmental problems stemming from industrial upset, and proper relief management, said an official handout.

130 tolas of gold seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent
Customs surveillance team at the Zia International Airport seized 130 tolas of gold bars worth about Tk. 11.10 lakh from a passenger in the late hours of Friday.

According to the customs official thirteen gold bars were recovered from one Mujibur Rahman at about 11 pm who arrived by Singapore flight SQ-420.

Customs officials on suspicion stopped Mujibur while he was passing through the green channel and recovered the said gold bars from his possession.

A departmental case was lodged in this connection.

Robbery in boat: Ornaments worth Tk one lakh looted

MUNSHIGANJ, Apr 18: Fifteen armed robbers looted belongings including gold ornaments worth about Tk one lakh from passengers of a mechanised boat in River Dhaleswari near Kathatti under sadar thana of the district on Thursday night, reports BSS.

Police sources said, the mechanised boat was carrying a bridal party from Chaitpara in Sirajdikhan thana to Bholale Fatullah thana of Narayanganj district.

The robbers who were wearing masks came by another engine boat.

Police arrested two boatmen of the bridal party's boat for their alleged involvement in the robbery.

A case was filed with sadar thana, the sources added.

31st session of IJO begins today

The 31st session of International Jute Organisation Committee on Projects (COP) will be held at IJO Headquarters Building here at 9 am today, reports UNB.

Bangladesh's Jute Secretary Mahfuzul Islam will preside over the COP session.

Meanwhile, the 2nd meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PREPCOM) will be held on April 20-22 commencing at 9.30 am each day at the same venue, KM Rabbani, former Executive Director of the IJO will preside the PREPCOM session.

The 27th session of the International Jute Council (IJC) will be held at Hotel Sonargaon on April 25-27. The IJC will be chaired by Risto Rekola, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad is expected to open the IJO council as chief guest and State Minister for Jute A K Fazul Huq will be the special guest.

All three IJO exporting members and 20 importing members including EU, will be represented at the sessions and council, said a press release.

The three exporting members are: Bangladesh, China and Nepal and 20 importing members are: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, UK, Egypt, Indonesia, Japan, Norway and Switzerland.

What's on today....

Workshop: The inaugural ceremony of NAM workshop on commercialisation of R&D and Technology Development will be held. Chief Guest: Noor Uddin Khan, Minister for Science and Technology. Venue: IFST seminar room of BCSIR, Dr Qudrat-E-Khuda Rd, Dhanmondi. Time: 9.00 am.

Workshop: A 5-day long workshop on "Human Resource Development Initiative (HRDI): Empowerment of rural landless and urban poor women by access to and use of technology through functional non-formal education" will begin. Chief Guest: Satish Chandra Roy, State Minister for Primary and Mass Education. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10.45 am.

Discussion meeting: A discussion meeting on 'Refugee Crisis in Kosovo' will be held. Chief guest: Abul Hasan Chowdhury, State Minister for Foreign Affairs. Venue: Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA), House No 22, Road No 7, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.15 pm.

Meeting: The weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka South will be held. Venue: Conference room, Hotel La Vinci, 54 Kawran Bazar. Time: 7.15 pm.

Weather

Temp unlikely to change

Rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Kushtia, Barisal, Comilla and Noakhali till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period. Met Office said, adding that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

The country's highest temperature 39 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and the lowest 19.8 degrees at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.21 pm and rises tomorrow, at 5.33 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	36.3	26.3	68	72
Chittagong	34.8	26.0	70	74
Rajshahi	39.0	25.6	76	44
Khulna	35.5	26.0	76	63
Barisal	34.4	25.2	82	70
Sylhet	33.0	20.5	75	68

BCIC Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd., Rangadia, Chittagong invites sealed tender from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers against Tender No. CUFL/PUR/98-99/6(188) dated 5.4.99 for purchase of High Speed Pipe Cut off Machine & Right Angled Electric Hand Grinder. Tender documents are available at the cost of Tk. 25.00 (Twenty-five) only (Non-refundable) per set up to 18.5.99 during the office hours in the following offices (1) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong & (3) CUFL, Accounts Department, Rangadia, Chittagong. Tender will be received in the Commercial Department, CUFL, Rangadia, Chittagong and BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong up to 11.30 AM on 19.5.99 and will be opened simultaneously both the places immediately thereafter. CUFL Management reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

BCIC 304-8/4/99 Nousher Uddin Ahmed
DFP-7558-11/4 Manager (Purchase)
G-670 for Managing Director.



Thingyan festival of Myanmar was celebrated at the premises of the Embassy in Dhaka recently. Photo shows the cultural programme at the festival.

Int'l short film festival at CU begins today

CHITTAGONG, Apr 18: An international short film festival begins at the Chittagong University Library auditorium tomorrow, reports UNB.

CU Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury will inaugurate the four-day show as chief guest at 9 am while Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof Abu Yusuf will be the special guest.

Festival committee chairman Prof Abul Mansur will preside over the inaugural function. It will be addressed by vice-chairman Dhali Al Mannan and Secretary Shahid Ullah Lipon.

A total of 40 selected short films will be screened in the festival organised, for the first time here, by the Bangladesh Short Film Forum and arranged by the Chittagong University Film Society.

The films will be from India, Portugal, Iran, Germany, Brazil, USA, Canada, Bosnia, Japan, Australia, UK, Spain, Sweden, Greece, Peru and Bangladesh.

On the inaugural day, seven films will be shown. The films are Chitra Nadir Pare, Liberation War in Arts, Shahabuddin, Dushshomoy-The Case of Shima Chowdhury, Chaka, Poster, Hazaribagh in Shots.

The festival will be open for all from 10 am to 1 pm, the organisers said.

DCC to help WASA ease water crisis

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) together with Dhaka WASA will ease water crisis situation in the capital, reports BSS.

The DCC is using its water tankers jointly with the WASA for water supply in the metropolitan areas, a DCC press release said.

The DCC has taken this step at the request of Dhaka WASA.

Danish minister calls on Khasru

The visiting Danish Minister for Development Cooperation Raul Nielson yesterday called on Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru and discussed Danish assistance to establish the National Human Rights Commission and the office of Ombudsman in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The Danish Minister is visiting Bangladesh in connection with the Formulation Mission on Danish assistance to Human Rights and Good Governance in this country, an official handout said.

During its 12-day visit here, the Formulation Mission held intensive and in-depth discussion on three proposed components like National Human Rights Commission, Ombudsman and judicial training.

The Danish Formulation Mission completed its work yesterday is expected to pave the way for a concrete cooperation between Bangladesh and Denmark in areas of human rights and good governance in Bangladesh.

The Danish government has in principle agreed to assist in two major areas which include establishment of the National Human Rights Commission and the office of Ombudsman and Judicial Administration Training Institute. These two major areas have been prioritised by the Danish mission here.

Minister to open tech seminar

Minister for Science and Technology Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan inaugurates a seminar cum exhibition on "Application and extension of locally developed appropriate technology" at Monohordi thana in Narsingdi district tomorrow, reports BSS.

The two-day exhibition will remain open for public from 9 am to 12 Noon Tuesday, according to an official handout.

Training Course on Automated Planning & Project Management (APPM)

uPBeATS Professional School

2005 The Deadly Year The WHO Is Coming Up! Save Yourself From This Monster Be An Upbeats Generation Be An Upbeats Professional

Training Language: English
Duration: Five and the half month (66 + 4= 90 classes)
Time: 05.30 P.M. to 09.30 P.M. & 4d/week
After completion of this training program the participants will be able to:

- formulate plan for any kind of project for any organization and prepare project proposal
- monitor and evaluate any project;
- understand development issues;
- understand and conduct research in different fields;
- enhance the sense of automation;
- work with computer in any field of planning and project management completely.
- self-development and work as the stress free confident, motivating and dynamic professional.

Commencing From: 28 April 1999
Training Fee: Tk. 7500 only per trainee
(Monthly Instalments: Tk 2000/- Entry: Tk 7500/-)
Last date of enrollment: 25 th April
Seat Capacity: 12 (Twelve)

Renowned local and international scholars and experts from different universities, institutes, NGO's and consultancy firms will conduct the program.

uPBeATS also provides customized IT based training program as per the needs of NGOs

House No-54 (2nd Fl.) Road No-10/A (New) Sat Masjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209
Phone: 9132013, 818329 Fax: 880-2-9660372 E-mail: <neticis@vasdigital.com>

A Bangla Dutch Joint Venture
uPBeATS
A Sister Concern of Networks **ACS** (BD) Ltd.

For SALE

SOUTHERN FRIED Chicken

Restaurant & Master Franchise

Southern Fried Chicken (SFC) is an international brand Fast Food Franchise.

SFC Restaurants are now operating in 70 countries worldwide. The finest exclusive ingredients, first class equipments, comprehensive hands-on training to Restaurants Operators and a global presence ensure a consistently high quality product.

Gourmet Foods Limited, a private limited company incorporated in Bangladesh has been granted exclusive Master Franchise Rights for the development of SFC Restaurants in Bangladesh.

Due to changing corporate Goals and Strategies, Gourmet Foods Ltd. now wishes to sell the Master Franchise Rights for Bangladesh along with the Restaurant located at Awal Center, 34 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka.

Individuals/Companies interested in owning and operating Southern Fried Chicken Franchise in Bangladesh are requested to contact Mr. Mahfuzur Rahman Khan at following phone numbers during office hours or write to the following address.

Gourmet Foods Limited TMC Building, First Floor
52 New Eskaton Road Dhaka 1000 Phone 934059 / 9337530

Introducing HOME DELIVERY SERVICE

HSBC

YOUR WORLD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

Now account opening with HSBC is as simple as making a telephone call. Dial any one of the numbers below and a representative from the Bank will be at your doorstep to help you open an account without you having to step out of the house. *The service does not end there, our officer will deliver your cheque book too!*

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

HSBC Dhaka Anchor Tower, 1/1-B Sonargaon Road, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh Telephone: (880-2) 9660536, Facsimile: (880-2) 9660554	HSBC Gulshan House No. SWG-2 (Corner of Road # 5) Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka-1212, Telephone: (880-2) 9885141 Mobile: 011-801303-7	HSBC Motijheel 1/C Rajuk Avenue, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 Telephone: (880-2) 9667026	HSBC Chittagong Osman Court, 70 Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong-4100 Telephone: (880-31) 710674 Mobile: 011-761961
---	---	--	--