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A few derailed policemen tarnishing image: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said some isolated incidents due to excesses committed by a few derailed policemen are tarnishing the image of the police force. She asked police personnel to earn people's confidence, reports UNB.

"People are being dissatisfied with the police because of misdeeds of some police personnel. This should not happen," she said and asked members of the police force to remain alert so that none of their colleagues can commit any unanticipated incident.

The prime minister was addressing the foundation-laying function of a 10-storey building in Rajarbagh Police Hospital complex in the morning.

Probe body

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ists. In the attack, at least 20 journalists and many opposition workers were hit with rubber bullets.

On top of all, the OC had the audacity to point his revolver at the journalists who were protesting the assault on them. "I have instructions from high-ups to shoot at both the pickets and the journalists," the police inspector was reported to have shouted at the journalists.

However, Home Minister Mohammad Nasim regretted the police attack on journalists on Tuesday, but kept much on the public humiliation of a woman by the law-keepers.

Meantime, a press release issued by the DMP yesterday claimed that the OC of Motijheel thana rather showed restraint to the agitating opposition activists. Besides, the OC and some constables were "wounded" as the opposition activists exploded bombs and threw brick bats at them. As a result, they are now under treatment, the DMP release said.

But when contacted a source at Rajarbagh police hospital told The Daily Star last night, "The injury OC Hanif received is negligible. He had a slight muscle pulling."

On Daily Star's request to give him (Hanif) the phone, a doctor at the hospital said at 10 pm that he was not in the hospital right at that moment. "He went out in the evening and is yet to return."

Launch disaster

2 more bodies recovered

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, May 12: Two more decomposed bodies of the victims of Saturday's launch disaster were found today.

One of the bodies was recovered from the engine room of ML Dweep Kanya, salvaged yesterday in Bhola. The other body was found in the river Meghna near Daulatkhan thana area of Bhola this morning.

With this, the unofficial death toll in the launch disaster rose to 39.

But Moinuddin Khan, Deputy Commissioner of Bhola told this correspondent that the actual number of bodies found till today is 25.

The new modern hospital building is part of a Tk 30 crore project for modernisation of police hospitals. Five divisional police hospitals and Sardah Police Academy Hospital will also be modernised under the project.

The prime minister regretted that people are losing their confidence in police force due to irresponsible attitude of some policemen.

"You have to regain the confidence and faith becoming friend of people, establishing peace and security in the society and curbing terrorism and violence."

Hasina said the government despite its limited resources has taken all possible steps for the welfare and development of police personnel and hoped that police would also render their best possible services utilising the added facilities.

SC Bar leaders urge President to appoint ad-hoc judges

Supreme Court Bar Association leaders have suggested the President to appoint ad-hoc judges from senior lawyers in the Supreme Court to dispose of long-pending cases, reports UNB.

The suggestion was made when a 14-member delegation of the newly elected Executive Committee of the Bar Association made a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

At the inaugural function, incumbent Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation Mohiuddin Chowdhury and former mayor Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin had telephonic conversation.

Earlier, PBTL Chairman Moshref Khan, MP, said "CDMA will help the customers feel more secure in communication."

Appraiser of Ctg Customs suspended

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, May 12: Authorities have suspended a principal appraiser of Chittagong Customs House.

Customs sources said Majid Sarker was suspended for negligence of duty in giving clearance to some consignment of imported goods.

The Appraisers' Association of Chittagong Customs House today held a rally protesting the suspension.

They staged demonstration in front of the office of the Commissioner of Chittagong Customs House demanding withdrawal of suspension order, implementation of pay scale of 1992 and postponement of unification of land and sea customs.

However, sources say that a section of appraisers are allegedly involved in providing undue advantage to importers to indulge in tax evasion either by under-invoicing or other manipulations.

Chhatak blast Jagadish denies involvement

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, May 12: The CID continued interrogation of the Joint Convenor of Sylhet District Juba League and Ward Commissioner of Sylhet Pourashava Jagadish Das for the second day today, said a police official tonight.

Interrogation will continue till midnight tonight. Jagadish was taken on a 2-day remand yesterday.

Jagadish gave some "important" information to the CID during the interrogation, sources said. He said he had close relation with Arif Haider, a Juba League activist of his area. Both of them worked for Majnu Miah during Chhatak Pourashava election under the guidance of Muhibur Rahman Manik, MP. Jagadish said, but, he denied his involvement in the bomb blast incident at Manik's residence.

She expressed concern over deterioration of law and order in the southwestern region of the country.

CDMA mobile phone service introduced in Ctg

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Joining of Larma as Chairman of the Interim Council followed his meeting with Kalparjan yesterday.

Gautam Chakma, a senior aide of Larma, said PCJSS decided to accept the Council after assurances from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to look into their demands in line with the peace accord.

The situation, which was so far absent, was created after our meeting with the Prime Minister, he said adding, "We are now waiting for realisation of the assurances." Larma had met the Prime Minister in February.

Asked how long the Council will continue to function as an interim body, Gautam Chakma said "There is no set date for its duration and the situation will decide how long it will run."

PCJSS, earlier in a statement, said it took the decision following the assurance for quick implementation of the peace agreement and "correcting" some "inconsistent" provisions from the hill district council bills in line with the peace accord.

Asked how long the Council will continue to function as an interim body, Gautam Chakma said "There is no set date for its duration and the situation will decide how long it will run."

He vowed to declare a war against the Awami League government if it does not resign immediately. "It would have been wise for the government to step down after Tuesday's naked incident the police unleashed."

Former state minister Sadek Hossain warned the Home Minister of giving a befitting reply in the streets of Dhaka to his (Nasim) repression in the city streets, especially during Tuesday's hartal.

He asked the Home Minister to immediately sack Motijheel Thana OC Mohammad Hanif as the police officer stripped off saree of a woman leader in broad daylight". Other police

Akram made only nine while Aminul managed eight.

Faruque Ahmed, playing his first match of the tour, scored a patient 33.

Khaled Mahmud, who had earlier conceded 71 runs in 10 overs while opening the Bangladesh attack with Monjurul, played a little cameo of 21-ball 40 inclusive of three sixes and a quartet of fours.

Wicket-keeper Khaled Mashud fought a losing battle with an unbeaten 40 off 45 balls. His valiant effort only helped Bangladesh avoid a humiliating defeat after they had been reduced to nine for 187.

Earlier, the Northampton tail wagged long to put up the imposing score by plundering 45 odd runs from the last four overs. The Northampton assault was provoked by their former Zimbabwean all-rounder Kevin Curren, who scored a hurricane 57 off 39 balls.

Perberthy was the most successful Northampton bowler with three wickets.

(Scoreboard on Page 14)

Bangladesh

From Page 1
when their openers Shahriar Hossain and Mehrab Hossain put on 54 runs. But they failed to keep up the momentum once Akram Khan, the most consistent performer, and skipper Aminul Islam fell cheaply.

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Save the trees, call 10 student bodies

By DU Correspondent

Ten student organisations have expressed grave concern over the government decision to build a conference centre for the NAM summit in Dhaka, fearing some 11,000 trees at the Osmani Udyan.

In a statement yesterday, the organisations expressed solidarity with the movement led by Prof. Sirajul Islam Chowdhury to save the trees. They urged the students to join citizens' rally on May 18 and a human chain programme in this connection on May 23.

Terming Dhaka the most polluted city in the world, the student bodies stated that the government should not resort to such an act further upsetting the ecology in the city.

The organisations include Bangladesh Chhata Union, Samajtantrik Chhata Front, Bangladesh Chhata Federation, Biplobi Chhata Sangha, Bangladesh Chhata Moity, Chhata Oikya Forum, Bangladesh Chhata Samity, Biplobi Chhata Moity, Jatiya Chhata Daf and BSD-backed Bangladesh Chhata League.

Besides, Bangladesh Chhata Federation (BCF), a left leaning student organisation, yesterday brought out a process-

Interns at RMCH call off strike

By DU Correspondent

The result of the admission test for the first year honours course of 1998-99 session under "Kha" unit (Humanities group) were announced yesterday, says a DU press release.

Out of a total of 13,356 candidates, 8744 have passed the test. Of the successful candidates, 2100 have been called for the viva voce according to their merit positions. The viva voce will start from May 24 at the dean's office of the Faculty of Arts.

The successful candidates have been asked to bring admit cards of the admission tests, original mark sheets of SSC and HSC examinations and two copies of attested passport size photographs.

The detailed timetable for the viva voce is as follows: May 24, merit position 1-150 (8:15 am to 11:15 am), 151-300 (11:30 am to 2:30 pm), May 25, 301-450 (8:15 am to 11:15 am), 451-600 (11:30 am to 2:30 pm), May 26, 601-750 (8:15 am to 11:15 am), 751-900 (11:30 am to 2:30 pm), May 27, 901-1050 (8:15 am to 11:15 am), 1051-1200 (11:30 am to 2:30 pm), May 29, 1201-1350 (8:15 am to 11:15 am), 1351-1500 (11:30 am to 2:30 pm), May 30, 1501-1650 (8:15 am to 11:15 am), 1651-1800 (11:30 am to 2:30 pm) and May 31, 1801-1950 (8:15 am to 11:15 am), 1951-2100 (11:30 am to 2:30 pm).

Buying house employee stabbed to death

By Staff Correspondent

An employee of a buying house was stabbed to death in the city's Maddhya Badda area in the early hours of yesterday.

The victim was identified as Omar Faruk, 28, a resident of Mohakhal area. Faruk is an employee of a buying house at Banani, police said.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

The incident took place following assurance given by the city Mayor Mizanur Minu. Minu met the striking doctors yesterday and assured them of their safety.

HC judgement on suo moto rule on hartal today

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Step down, sack OC

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Sadek Hossain Khoka MP. It was addressed, among others, by Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Advocate Abdur Rab Chowdhury, Mirza Abbas, Gyeswar Chandra Roy, Amanullah Aman MP, Kursheed Jahan Haq MP, Selina Rahmani, Joynal Abedin Faruq MP, Barkatullah Bhulu MP, Salahuddin Ahmed and Habibunni Khan Sohel.

Matin Chowdhury said police threatened to open fire on journalists and they "striped off saree of a woman activist at the instruction of the Home Minister".

"No Home Minister of a civilised or democratic country can give such an order, but Mohammad Nasim did give the order," he added.

He vowed to declare a war against the Awami League government if it does not resign immediately. "It would have been wise for the government to step down after Tuesday's naked incident the police unleashed."

The rally over, BNP leaders and activists brought out a procession that paraded Paltan, Topkhana, Press Club, High Court, Ramna