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Plant 100 trees each, PM's call to campaigners

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged those who opposed the felling of trees at Osmany Udayan and formed a human chain in protest to plant 100 trees each, reports BSS.

Addressing the conference of the DUJ yesterday she said "It gives me pain when I see that my good motives are sometimes criticised for no reason."

She said there are only 1600 trees at Osmany Udayan, of which only 400 will be cut for construction of the Convention Hall for the NAM summit. She said the premises can not contain 11,000 trees as claimed. She said the environmentalists have opined that the trees in the Osmany Udayan were not environment friendly.

She reiterated her government's decision to plant 1,200 trees in place of the 400 trees. She said during her nearly three years' stay in the Ganobhaban she has planted 400 trees there. "My party leaders and workers also plant trees regularly," she said.

Referring to the selection of site, the prime minister said many areas such as the old drum factory and the area adjacent to the Old Airport were considered for the Convention Hall but later those places were found unsuitable for the purpose. "I myself saw three designs of the proposed hall and approved the one which can be constructed with less felling of trees," she said.

5.2pc growth

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Of this amount, Tk 7,666 crore came from internal resources while project aid was Tk 5774 crore and food-based programme Tk 560 crore. The revised ADP projects were 1,330 in number.

Main feature of the 1999-2000 development budget, to be announced along with the next national budget, is human resource development by means of rapid spread of education.

Education sector got Tk 1960.31 crore from the development budget, which is 14 per cent of the proposed ADP.

In overall considerations social sectors have been given priority in the new ADP with rural development, education, health and family welfare, woman and child development, sports and culture, and rearing skilled manpower identified as thrust sectors.

Special thrust has been given on poverty alleviation through manpower development, agriculture and rural uplift.

Transportation, physical planning, housing infrastructure development and development of labour-intensive sectors will also be given importance, the meeting was told.

The crisis-ridden power sector has also been given importance in the proposed development plan, with a total allocation of Tk 1800 crore or 13 per cent of the total ADP earmarked, including project aid component of Tk 550 crore.

For development of energy, gas, oil and mineral resources Tk 745 crore has been allocated.

Press freedom

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tating," she said. "Now the elections will be held on schedule," she said.

Sheikh Hasina also asked the Leader of the Opposition to launch movement with economic and social issues. "I have got a long experience of movements. I started movement as a school girl against the Ayub regime," she said, adding "We also launched movements against General Zia and General Ershad." She said people would not lend their support to any movement unless they have a stake in it.

The Prime Minister said that when the opposition created agitation for electricity and water, people responded. "We were in a bad position over those issues," she admitted. She said her government had been able to generate additional 700 MW in the past three years. She said the country would have 2,200 MW of power by the end of 2002.

She said during the BNP rule gas transmission suffered and many mills did not get gas connection. She said her government had to manage 'misdeeds' of the previous government and set everything to order.

Referring to the demands of the journalists, the Prime Minister said the government would try to solve their housing problem. She said that journalists would be able to buy flats on hire-purchase basis. She said plans were also there to give them plots for housing purposes.

Chaired by DUJ acting president Shiva Rahman, the function was also addressed by State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, BFUJ president Abdul Kalam Azad, BFUJ secretary general Akhtar Ahmed Khan and DUJ general secretary Azizul Islam Bhuiyan. Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul concluded the meeting.



Two former presidents – Abdur Rahman Biswas and Hussein Muhammad Ershad – listen to discussions marking the birth centenary of Rebel Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam organised by the pro-Opposition national committee at Engineers' Institution auditorium yesterday.

— Star photo by Amran Hossain

People are fed up with misrule of AL govt : Khaleda

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon her party's youth front activists to get ready for making any sacrifice for the country, reports UNB.

She made the call while addressing Jubo Dal leaders who called on her in the evening on the occasion of the release of Jubo Dal's Dhaka city General Secretary Giasuddin Chowdhury Khokon from jail.

"People are fed up with the misrule of Awami League government and they want to get rid of it," said the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament who is leading an anti-government movement.

Begum Zia called upon the Jubo Dal leaders to work for gearing up the ongoing anti-government movement to score the victory braving arrest, jail and repression.

Khokon and a central member of Jubo Dal, Mohammad Sharif Hossain — both personal security of Begum Zia — were arrested by police on April 16. They were released on Monday upon High Court orders.

Terrorist shot dead in Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 26: One of the top terrorists in the city and reportedly a Shibir cadre was shot dead by some armed miscreants at Madunaghat under Hathazari thana last night.

The victim, Mohibul alias Khuku Moni was at his sister's residence in Madunaghat area during the incident.

A group of miscreants boarding a microbus reached there at around 11-30 pm and entered the house forcibly. They dragged Mohibul out of the house and shot him point blank. He died on the spot.

Police said Mohibul was wanted in a number of criminal cases, including a triple murder case in Bahaderhat CDA Residential Area.

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One dies after taking liquor

By Staff Correspondent

A businessman died after taking poisonous liquor in the city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Dolan Ahmed, 42, son of late Haji Mafizuddin of DOHS in Mahakali area.

Hospital sources said Dolan fell sick after taking liquor on Saturday. He was rushed to the Chardio Hope Hospital at Gulshan.

Larma

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Larma also criticises his former 'comrades' in PCP and other front organisations, accusing them of trying to foil his plans for a "new era" for the CHT people in an atmosphere of peace after decades of insurgency.

He alleged that some quarters in the government were propping up the anti-Larma faction led by young turks Prasid and Sanchoy with "money and backing". The allegation was made after two bombs exploded behind his motorcycle when he was travelling from Khagrachari to Rangamati under police escort on Monday. But PCP denied the allegation.

Our Rangamati Correspondent Shuvra Jyoti Chakma adds: A new political arena began in the Chittagong Hill Tracts today when the 21 members of the interim Regional Council submitted their joining letters to its Chairman JB-Larma.

They submitted their joining letters along with permanent residence certificates at 11 am.

The first meeting of the RC will be held on June 3, Rupayan Dewan, a member of RC and senior leader of PCJSS, said after a close-door meeting at the RC office.

Chairman of three hill district councils of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachari will be present in the June 3 meeting. They are ex-official members of RC.

Meanwhile, the Parbatty Gano Parishad staged a rally at Reserve Bazar today to drum up support for their tomorrow's hartal.

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Businessman killed in city

By Staff Correspondent

A businessman died allegedly after falling from the fifth floor of a commercial building at Naya Paltan under Motijheel thana in the city yesterday morning.

The businessman was identified as Tajul Islam, son of Amanullah of 25/1 East Naya Paltan in the city.

Police suspected that he was dropped from the 12th floor of the City Heart Plaza in Motijheel.

They said, he took money from many people for sending them abroad and the killing might be linked with monetary dealings.

His body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Ganguly, David set world record

TAUNTON (England), May 26: India's Rahul Dravid and Saurav Ganguly set a world record standing on one-day internationals of 318 for the second wicket in their World Cup Group A match against Sri Lanka today, reports Reuters.

The previous record of 275 was set by Mohammad Azharuddin and Ajay Jadeja for the fourth wicket against Zimbabwe in the 1997-98 season.

Dravid was run out for 145 when Ganguly was not out 159, the highest individual score of the 1999 World Cup.

The reaction at home has been fantastic," said team manager Tanvir Mazharul Islam as the Bangladeshi team kicked a football around in cloudy conditions at the Riverside Ground.

Islam said Australia, who are in real danger of missing out on the second stage of the tournament, should beware of over-confidence.

"In our first three matches our batting has failed totally and it's about time we reached 230 or 240. We want to take the fight to the Aussies tomorrow and give them a shock," he said.

Of the team that beat Scotland in Edinburgh by 22 runs, Islam said allrounder Naimur Rahman had suffered an ankle injury and might not make the Australia match.

Shahrial Hossain, who scored a career-best 95 against Kenya in February this year, or Neeyamur Rashid could step in to replace Rahman.

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Dialogue with Opposition soon: Nasim

Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim said in the city yesterday that he would take initiatives to talk with the opposition parties, especially the BNP very soon, reports BSS.

"As Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has entrusted me with the responsibility to talk with the opposition parties, so I will start talking with them in a day or two aiming to fix method and process of the formal dialogue," he told newsmen at his office.

He said BNP is coming back from its "destructive" hartal programme and now started to say "Polling is the only way to go to power." He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has appreciated BNP's realisation and urged them to maintain congenial democratic atmosphere in the country.

Bangladesh

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31. There are no injuries in the team and every one is fully fit," said team co-ordinator Dewan Shafiq Arfin.

Considering the high-profile reputation of the Aussies, Bangladesh will bat first if captain Aminul calls the coin toss.

Scoring as many runs against Australia is our only target at the moment," said Arfin.

The Australians are under some pressure in their bid to qualify for the Super Six and we have to see whether we can take any advantage of that."

Bangladesh were happy that Durham was not as cold as Edinburgh or Dublin.

BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury accompanied the team to Durham from Edinburgh on the team coach responding to requests from the players. The team reached Durham yesterday afternoon.

Reuters adds from Chester-le-Street: Bangladesh harboured few illusions today about their World Cup chances against Australia.

"I'm really hoping we win the toss so we'll bat first to stop them making a big score," said coach Gordon Greenidge. "They'll probably give us a huge beating."

But the team was in jubilant mood after their first group B win over Scotland when it arrived in this north-eastern town.

The reaction at home has been fantastic," said team manager Tanvir Mazharul Islam as the Bangladeshi team kicked a football around in cloudy conditions at the Riverside Ground.

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GSS crisis: Report sent to PMO

By Staff Correspondent

There is still no headway in resolving crises of the GSS, one of the largest NGOs of the country, which has been exposed to allegations of various irregularities on the one hand and internal feuds on the other.

The rivalry between the groups, one supporting the NGO's executive director Dr F R Mahmud Hassan and the other opposing him, resulted in several rounds of clashes in the last few weeks. The latest such clash took place Tuesday that left a good number of people belonging to both the sides injured. Besides, the opposing groups filed cases against each other.

He said BNP is coming back from its "destructive" hartal programme and now started to say "Polling is the only way to go to power." He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has appreciated BNP's realisation and urged them to maintain congenial democratic atmosphere in the country.

Inshallah, we will win WC one day, hopes Hasina

"Inshallah, Bangladesh will win the World Cup one day," hoped Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while expressing her happiness over the first World Cup victory of Bangladesh team against Scotland on Monday last, reports BSS.

Meantime, the NGO Affairs Bureau that investigated into the allegations against the management of the NGO and its controversial executive director has sent a set of recommendations to the Prime Minister's Office.

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