

Howard praises economic reforms Bangladesh committed to peace for development: Hasina

CANBERRA, Oct 20: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reaffirmed Bangladesh's unflinching commitment to peace and stability at home and in the region as peace and development are inextricably inter-linked, reports UNB.

"Bangladesh is, therefore, committed to disarmament which has been clearly manifested in our signing of CTBT (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty). Bangladesh is also the first country in South Asia to sign the Anti-personal Mine Convention," she said at a luncheon hosted in her honour by Australian Prime Minister John Howard at the Parliament House.

About conclusion of the Canberra Commission that "The proposition that nuclear weapons can be retained in perpetuity and never used accidentally, or by decision, defies credibility," the Prime Minister said the "only complete defence is the elimination of nuclear weapons and assurances that they will never be produced again."

About bilateral relations with Australia, Hasina said Bangladesh was keen about enhancing trade ties with Canberra. She said the present level of trade and narrow range of products did not reflect the full trade potential in this area.

The Prime Minister noted there was no major hindrance to developing the trade and economy existing between the two countries.

Tributes paid to CPB leader

By Staff Correspondent
Speakers at a commemorative meeting paid rich tribute to Comrade Barin Dutt, an organiser of the country's War of Liberation and a former general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB).

CPB organised the meeting at the party office in the city yesterday in observance of the sixth anniversary of death of Dutt, whose entire life and works were dedicated to the causes of democratic and non-communal values.

A party press release said last night that the speakers at the meeting vowed to work for the benefit of millions by rescuing the current trend of politics being guided by the terrorists. They also called for imbuing with the spirit of revolutionists like Dutt.

With party leader Morshed Ali Khan in the chair, the meeting was addressed, among others, by CPB general secretary Muhibul Islam Selim, president member Hena Das, Ganatantrik Party leader Azizul Islam Khan, farmers' leader Sazzad Zahir Chandan and student leader Hasan Tariq Chowdhury Sohel.

Workshop on gender issues concludes

A three-day workshop titled "In-depth Reporting on Gender Issues," organised by News Network, concluded in Thakurgaon on Tuesday, reports UNB.

A total of 25 journalists and freelance writers from local and national dailies participated in the workshop at HADS conference room, said a press release here today.

News Network Editor Shahiduzzaman, Special Correspondent of daily Ittefaq Hassan Shahriar, Executive Director of Nari Uddog Kendra Mashuda Khatun Shefali and Sultana Begum, Country Representative of Diakonia, a Swedish donor agency, conducted the workshop.

Farid Hossain, the Bureau Chief of Associated Press in Dhaka, moderated the workshop.

Opening of agri faculties at tech varsities Leading agriculturists condemn govt move

By Staff Correspondent

Leading agriculturists of the country have denounced government's plan of opening agriculture faculties in the 12 proposed science and technology universities instead of upgrading the existing agriculture colleges into independent agriculture universities.

At a meeting of the Bangladesh Agriculture Institute (BAI) Old Boys' Association in the city on Tuesday night, they demanded the government upgrade three agriculture colleges into agriculture universities and establish three new agriculture universities in Sylhet, Chittagong and Khulna divisions.

The Association President and former agriculture minister, Mahbubuzzaman, chaired the meeting held at the BAI conference room.

Sources present at the meeting told The Daily Star yesterday that the government's plan of opening up agriculture faculties in the proposed universities was impractical, as there were no provision for adequate land acquisition. The meeting also noted that at least 100 acres of land is required for research, farming, livestock and pisciculture purposes in each of the varsities, for higher education in agriculture to be properly delivered.

The meeting strongly demanded that the government keep higher education in agriculture under the Ministry of

Chehlim

The chehlim of Ayubur Rahman, a former secretary of Ministry of Works and former chief engineer of Road and Highway Department, will be held tomorrow at his residence at 27/1 West Malibagh after Asr prayers, says a press release.

All friend, relatives and well-wishers of Rahman have been requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Former DU student held for attempt to mug teacher

By DU Correspondent

Police yesterday arrested Hafizar Rahman, a former student of Dhaka University who made an abortive effort to mug his teacher on the campus on Wednesday.

Campus sources said police arrested him at about 8 am from in front of Zahirul Haq Hall of the university, where he used to reside illegally.

When contacted, Ramma police said Hafizar was arrested following a mugging case filed against him by a DU teacher on Wednesday. He was sent to the CM court yesterday morning, police added.

Hasina urges expatriates to enhance country's image abroad

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged Bangladeshi expatriates to enhance the image of the country and contribute to its economic development, reports UNB from Canberra.

Speaking at a reception at the residence of Bangladesh High Commissioner to Australia last evening, she said Bangladesh has redeemed its image following the government's economic and people-oriented programme.

"Bangladesh will no longer be identified as a country of poverty, disease and natural calamities...we want to emerge as an economically developed nation," Hasina said.

She said in the past there was no specific policy to make the country economically self-reliant. After assuming power, the present government has undertaken various pragmatic policies and programmes for improving economic condition of the people.

Hasina also spelt out schemes including housing and micro-credit programmes for the poor people. She assured that the government will extend cooperation so Bangladeshi expatriates can buy houses in the country.

Earlier, the Prime Minister planted a sapling of Eucalyptus at the new site of Bangladesh High Commission. A chancery complex will be constructed at its own land of over 7,000 square metres.

She also paid tributes to a great Australian, WAS Ouderland, who fought alongside Bangladesh's independence heroes and was subsequently awarded the nation's gallantry award 'Bir Protik' for his contribution to the Liberation War in 1971.

She said the people of Bangladesh for historical reasons have great regards for the people and government of Australia. "All of you stood by us in hour of our struggle, in our moment of distress during the days of our Liberation War in 1971."

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