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Crimes against women, children Govt plans to enact stringent law: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the government plans to enact a stringent law to curb crimes against women and children by amending the current legislation, reports UNB.

Since there are loopholes in the existing law, amendments would be made to make it tougher. The new law would have provision so that women victimised due to acid throwing or other criminal acts could get treatment and compensation, she said.

Speaking at the first ever women's book fair and rally sponsored by Nari Grantha Prabortona at Sultana Kamal Women Sports Complex at Dhanmondi yesterday afternoon, Hasina said the government is exchanging views with women organisations to make the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act more effective against the serious crimes.

The prime minister said after assuming power, her government adopted the Women Development Policy to empower the women and build them as educated and efficient human resources.

Hasina said she also raised specific resolution at the last SAARC summit in Colombo and Commonwealth summit in Durban seeking concerted efforts to check trafficking in women and ensure their rights.

To empower women and facilitate their participation in nation-building activities, the government made provision for women to get elected directly to the Union Councils. As a result, about 14,000 women were elected as chairman and members of Union Councils in last elections, she told the opening function of the book fair.

The Prime Minister, however, asked the womenfolk to prepare for realising their rights. "You will have to establish your rights, you will have to wrest it, none hands out rights," she recalled.

Earlier, the prime minister opened the book fair and went round its different sections.

9 JCD, Shibir activists held from Rajshahi College hostels

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Dec 3: Police in a pre-dawn raid arrested nine students from the eight hostels of Rajshahi Government College today.

The arrested are the activists of BNP-backed Chhatra Dal and Jamaat-backed Islam Chhatra Shibir, college sources said.

Students were mercilessly beaten up and misbehaved by police, sources alleged.

No case was filed against the arrested students, police said. More than 200 police personnel took part in the raid.

2 Jubo Dal leaders held at Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent
SIRAJGANJ, Dec 3: Police arrested two Jubo Dal leaders from the town's Hossainpur area in the early hours today in connection with their alleged involvement in hating bombs on the residence of Sadar Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO).

The arrested, identified as Kadiul Islam Likhon and Shakil alias Tikka, are the executive committee members of sadar thana unit of Jubo Dal.

Bus strike in 6 southern dists

BARISAL, Dec 3: Bus service between six southern districts and rest of the country was disrupted as bus owners and workers began an indefinite strike today, reports UNB.

Barisal Divisional Bus Owners Samity and Bus Workers Union called the strike demanding steps against plying of unlicensed vehicle.

The strike halted movement of buses from Barisal, Bhola, Pirojpur, Jhalakati, Patuakhali and Barguna to the capital and other districts.

Divisional administration had proposed a meeting with the strikers at local Circuit House this afternoon but they rejected it, saying "no talk without acceptance of the demand."

He said the convention against abusive child labour practices, adopted by the International Labour Organization in a unanimous vote earlier this year and ratified last month by the US Senate, symbolised "what we're seeking in the launch of a new round of trade talks."

"We seek to widen the circle of opportunity, deepen our commitment to human rights and human freedom and put a human face on the global economy."

He said the United States was establishing an unprecedented ban on government purchases of products "made by forced or indentured child labour."

"And we have beefed up enforcement to stop the importation of goods made by such labour," he added.

Meanwhile, trade ministers narrowed their differences on farm policy but still had to resolve bitter fights over labour rights and a host of other issues today before launching a new round of talks to reduce global trade barriers.

Wrapping up four days of negotiations marked by violent street protests, the 135-nation World Trade Organization hoped to reach the finish line with a deal on the specific agenda for what should be covered by the new talks.



Leader of the Opposition and BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia hosted a dinner for editors of national dailies at Hotel Sheraton yesterday to exchange views on the latest political situation after the summit of four opposition party chiefs on Tuesday. BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan is also seen. — Star photo

Nasu Miah murder Rally demanding arrest of killers today

By Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh Truck Owners' Association, Truck Drivers' Union and Transport Agency Owners Association will hold a rally today at 3:00 pm at Muktagachhara demanding arrest and trial of the persons responsible for killing truck driver Nasu Miah and helper Zakir by hurling a petrol bomb on a truck during hartal on November 25.

Driver Nasu Miah burnt alive while his helper Zakir succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A case was registered by police accusing former Mayor and BNP leader Mirza Abbas and 90 others for their alleged involvement in the incident.

A mourning procession will be brought out after the rally.

Shikdar's beneficiaries question authority of probe body

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Dec 3: A judicial enquiry has been demanded against the report submitted by the three-member probe committee of the government formed to prepare a list of beneficiaries of 'notorious' terrorist Ershad Ali Shikdar.

Some of the beneficiaries have questioned the authority of the probe body to enquire into the service career of the senior officials.

These beneficiaries have termed the report as motivated and designed to malign the senior officials in the police department by junior officials' lobbying for promotion.

According to a leaflet circulated in the city, the head of the three-member probe body is lying for promotion as additional IG of Police and is involved in lobbying against the incumbent Additional IG Abdul Rahim Khan.

The leaflet says that he did never question Ershad anything about illegal firearms, but pressed him for naming his beneficiaries, particularly in police department.

On Thursday Clinton declared that "ensuring the rights, the basic rights, of labour is central to our mission here in Seattle."

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"If Clinton pursues the labour issue, it may make us wonder what's the point?" said Asmat Kamaluddin, secretary-general of Malaysia's ministry of international trade and in-

dustry. "We cannot agree to the inclusion of labour in the WTO."

Late Thursday, the working group on agriculture completed its work with a one-page draft declaration. US Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said he believed negotiations in this area represented "significant progress" for the administration, which is counting on big cuts in farm barriers to please American farmers and help sell a final deal in Congress.

The text calls for members to move "in the direction of progressive elimination of export subsidies," a statement aimed at reconciling the European Union, which has a large subsidy program, with countries led by the Cairns Group of agricultural nations, and the United States, which called for complete elimination of subsidies.

Many Third World countries said Clinton's remarks on labour rights here this week confirmed their worst fears that the US administration, bowing to pressures from American labour unions, would ultimately demand trade sanctions for their alleged labour violations. They said that would make them even poorer.

Earlier, thousands of protesters surrounded a Seattle jail Thursday demanding the release of more than 500 activists detained earlier in a police crackdown on anti-WTO demonstrations.

"Let them go, let them go. Free the Seattle 500," chanted demonstrators outside King County Jail south of the downtown area.

"Let's get real, storm the Bastille," was another rallying cry as the demonstrators vowed to remain at the jail until their demands were met.

Situation at Shahjalal Varsity tense 3-hour siege disrupts activities on campus

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 3: The All Party Action Committee (Opposition) laid a three-hour siege to Shahjalal University of Science and Technology today, paralysing all activities on the campus.

The demonstrators put the main gate, academic buildings and the library under lock and key in the morning.

The Committee is agitating for immediate withdrawal of the names of different halls and buildings of the university.

It had earlier announced a three-day programme including laying siege to the University today and tomorrow and a day-long hartal in the district on December 5.

Meanwhile, the semester finals scheduled to begin tomorrow has become uncertain in the prevailing situation.

The agitators held a rally today at the main gate with Advocate Nurul Haque, Vice-President of district BNP, in the chair. It was addressed by district Jatiya Party President Advocate Gias Uddin, former president of Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry MA Razaque Chowdhury and City Jamaat Secretary Hafiz Abdul Hai Haroon.

The speakers said different halls and buildings of the university were named after some disputed persons and demanded withdrawal of the names by December 6.

Otherwise, fresh agitation programme would be announced on December 7 including an indefinite strike at the university, they warned.

On the other hand, a protest meeting was held at Ambarikhan in town in the afternoon with district Muktiyoddha Sangsad Commander Enam Ahmed Chowdhury in the chair.

The speakers protested the activities of the 'fundamentalists' regarding the university.

They called upon all to unitedly resist the activities of the 'anti-liberation forces' to create a 'chaotic situation' on campus.

Those who spoke are district Awami League Vice-president

SATKHIRA, Dec 3: An old man was shot dead by a group of miscreants at village Kheshra in Tala thana last night.

The victim was identified as Ahmad Kaguchi, 65.

Police said a group of miscreants stormed into Kaguchi's house and dragged him out of the house. They shot him in presence of his family members. He died on the spot. A case was filed with Tala thana, but none was arrested in this connection till filing of this report today.

Police said a group of miscreants stormed into Kaguchi's house and dragged him out of the house. They shot him in presence of his family members. He died on the spot. A case was filed with Tala thana, but none was arrested in this connection till filing of this report today.

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Charges against Sharif may be delayed again

KARACHI, Dec 3: Prosecutors will again delay bringing charges against deposed Pakistani premier Nawaz Sharif after a last-minute change in the law, the chief prosecutor in the case told AFP today.

Sharif, his brother and five other senior officials accused in the case, were due to be formally charged before an anti-terrorism court tomorrow.

They have been in detention since Sharif was ousted in a military coup on October 12.

Pakistan's military rulers widened the powers of the anti-terrorism court on Thursday and now a more senior judge will have to be found to hear the case, said chief prosecutor Raja Qureshi.

"Most likely the challan (charge sheet) cannot be presented tomorrow, although we are ready and we have completed our investigation," Qureshi said.

Sharif would likely be charged early next week with attempting to murder the country's military ruler, criminal

conspiracy, hijacking and kidnapping, Qureshi said.

Now a high court judge would be needed to sit in the court, he said.

It depends on the appointment of the judge and the federal government is going to consult with the chief justice of the provincial high court," he said.

"It is not a delaying tactic. It is going to give more transparency to the case."

The legal amendment empowers judges at the anti-terrorism court to try cases of treason, hijacking, kidnapping and criminal conspiracies, as well as waging or attempting to wage war against Pakistan.

It also allows the court to hear cases of outraging religious feelings in this Islamic country.

PTI adds: Prosecutors in the treason and plane hijacking case are holding the black box of the PIA aircraft flying Army Chief General Pervez Musharraf from Colombo to Karachi on October 12, as an ev-

idence against Nawaz Sharif and six co-accused, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The black box contains the recorded conversation between the pilot and the control tower when the aircraft with army chief and 200 passengers was not allowed to land at the Karachi airport, allegedly at the behest of Sharif. The Daily Pakistan Observer said quoting PIA sources.

The black box of flight PK-805 was removed by the military authorities immediately after it finally landed at Karachi airport. The Daily said.

The co-accused include Khagan Abbasi, former head of Pakistan International Airlines, Syed Ghous Ali Shah, formerly Sharif's chief advisor in Sindh province, and Rana Maqbool, former Sindh police chief.

Two other Sharif allies, Saeed Mehdi, Sharif's principal secretary, and Saif-ur Rehman, former chief of the Accountability Bureau, are also accused in the case.

CRAB protest

From page 1

to take action against AC Humayun Kabir and the constables responsible for beating up the reporter.

The procession was brought out as the Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police failed to take action against the accused constables within the stipulated time.

Azhar Ali Sarker, a senior staff reporter of Bangladesh Patrika, was confined to a room of the DC South and roughed up by policemen for almost half an hour on Wednesday.

Findings of a CRAB inquiry committee on Thursday revealed involvement of constables in the incident.

Following the inquiry report, the CRAB leaders demanded immediate removal of AC Humayun Kabir and exemplary punishment to the constables.

Prior to bringing out the procession from Jatiya Press Club, the Association leaders held a brief rally at the Jatiya Press Club. It was presided over by the association president Farveez Khan.

The rally was addressed among others by vice-president of CRAB Shamsul Hossain, general secretary Fakhrul Alam, organising secretary Shah Monwar Jahan, secretary general of DUJ Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan and its member Kazi Abdul Hannan, president of Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association Mohammad Salauddin and CRAB office bearers Abul Hossain, Mahmudur Rahman, Adnan Hossain, Supon Roy, Arif Rahman and Saleh Shibli and Shaikh Nazrul Islam.

The grouping originally comprised four littoral states -- Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand -- and was called BIMSTEC.

Later at a ministerial meeting in Bangkok, the four founding members agreed to admit Myanmar, renaming it BIM-STEC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand for Economic Cooperation).

The idea was originally mooted by Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand and the grouping was initially conceived as 'Bay of Bengal Economic Cooperation Organisation.'

Meanwhile, the returning officer has imposed a ban on movement of the outsiders in the Rajshahi-5 constituency from 6 am of December 6 to 6 am of December 9 to ensure free and fair election.

Trans-Asian Highway

From page 1

by BIMSTEC to conduct a study for construction of the proposed Trans-Asian highway. Stretches of the highway already exist and it is now a matter of linking up and providing facilitation services, he said.

Detailed discussions are also expected to take place to find avenues to boost trade, investment and tourism and to exchange scientific data including meteorological data for greater cooperation among the member countries.

Discussions are also expected to take place to prepare a possible list of tariff concessions and create free trade zones in BIMSTEC countries.

Earlier at the Dhaka meeting, working groups were formed to prepare work plans focussing on six primary areas. The countries and the areas assigned are: Bangladesh - trade and investment, India - technology, Thailand - transport and communications, Myanmar - Energy and Sri Lanka - Tourism and Fisheries.

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Chargat thana in this connection.

The local liaison committee of the BNP-led opposition alliance has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal at Chargat thana headquarters on election day on December 8, and announced agitation programmes to resist the by-election.

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Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation
Krishi Bhaban
49-51, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000
(Purchase Division)

Notice

Subject: Extension of tender submission date

Tender submission date against BADC's Tender No. 1-Potato Seed (P) 151/99-2000 dated 24.10.99 is hereby extended from 30.11.99 to 14.12.99. All other terms and conditions of the tender notice shall remain unchanged.

ADC-999
DFP-26730-29/4
G-2060

Abdul Gafur Khan
Manager (Purchase)
BADC, Dhaka.

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ওয়াসার বকেয়া বিল না দিলে
মামলা, মালকোক, জেল, জরিমানা

ঢাকা ওয়াসার সম্মানিত গ্রাহক সাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানান যাচ্ছে যে, ঢাকা ওয়াসার পানি ও পয়ঃ বিলের বকেয়া আদায়ের জন্য সরকার কর্তৃক নিয়োগকৃত একজন প্রথম শ্রেণীর ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট ও সার্টিফিকেট অফিসারের অধীনে আদালতের কার্যক্রম জোরদার করা হয়েছে।

পানি ও পয়ঃ বিল পরিশোধে বার্ষিক গ্রাহকের পানির সংযোগ তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের পাশাপাশি পি.ডি.আর. এন্ট্রি-১৯১৩ এর অধীনে সার্টিফিকেট অফিসারের আদালতে মামলা দায়ের পূর্বক খেলাপী গ্রাহকের সম্পত্তি ক্রোকে মাধ্যমে নিলামে বিক্রি করে বকেয়া আদায়ের কার্যক্রম গ্রহণের বিধান রয়েছে। তাছাড়া পানি সরবরাহ ও পয়ঃনিষ্কাশন আইন, ১৯৯৬ অনুসারে অবৈধ সংযোগ গ্রহণসহ অন্যান্য অবৈধ কার্যকলাপের শাস্তি এক বছরের কারাদন্ড বা দশ হাজার টাকা পর্যন্ত জরিমানা অথবা উভয়বিধ দন্ড। এ'ধরনের অবৈধ কার্যকলাপ রোধকল্পে ম্যাজিস্ট্রেটের ভ্রাম্যমান আদালতের মাধ্যমে শাস্তিমূলক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হচ্ছে।

বকেয়া আদায়ের কারণে সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকৃত শাস্তিমূলক ব্যবস্থা এবং পি.ডি.আর. এন্ট্রির অধীনে মামলা, মালকোক, জেল, জরিমানা এডানোর লক্ষ্যে অবিলম্বে বকেয়াসহ হাল নাগাদ পানি ও পয়ঃ বিল পরিশোধের জন্য সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

অবিলম্বে বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ পানি ও পয়ঃ বিল পরিশোধ করুন

আপনার সেবায় নিয়োজিত
ঢাকা ওয়াসা

ওয়াসা/জরতঃ ৪২৮/৯৯।