

Metropolitan

Govt thinking of exporting foodgrains: Hasina

TUNGIPARA. Gopalganj, Apr 26: As the country hopes for yet another bumper paddy crop, the Prime Minister today said that the government was thinking about exporting foodgrains to increase export earnings, reports UNB.

Sheikh Hasina said that the country earns 3 crore dollars a year by exporting vegetables and the government is trying to increase farm-product exports, including that of processed foods.

She unveiled the government plan while addressing a rally of Bangladesh Krishak League at the TG High School ground in the afternoon.

The rally was organised to mark the 28th anniversary of Krishak League, the peasant front of the ruling party.

Peasant leaders from different parts of the country joined the rally, which was inaugurated through hoisting of the national flag by the Prime Minister.

Hasina said that because of the steps taken, including that of farm subsidy given defying donors' suggestions, overall agricultural production increased and the country was

proceeding towards attaining self-sufficiency in food.

Calling upon the farmers to go for massive production, the Prime Minister said that the government had taken all possible measures for solving the problems of peasants and increasing investment in the agriculture sector.

"We have taken measures so that the farmers can get loans easily and invest in the sector, which is the life-force of our economy," she said.

The Prime Minister said Bangladesh is an agrarian country and the contribution of agriculture to the economy is enormous. For this reason the present government has taken massive steps for solving problems of the farmers.

Despite huge pressure from donor countries no to do so, the government provided subsidy to agricultural sector in last three years amounting to Tk 464 crore for the benefit of the farmers, she said.

"We are keeping a block allocation of Tk 100 crore in every budget for giving subsidy to the agriculture sector," she said, adding the government has provided Tk 3270 crore for agricultural loan and ensured

smooth supply of the agri-inputs, which she said has yielded three consecutive bumper crops.

"We have introduced an agriculture policy, seed policy for the convenience of the farmers and taken all possible steps for the benefit and welfare of the farmers."

"We are doing all this to attain self-sufficiency in food production," she said calling upon the farmers to produce more and utilise every inch of land. She suggested them to plant more and more trees.

Hasina, who is the pioneer of "one household, one farm" policy, also suggested the farmers to market their products through cooperatives to get fair prices. She said the government buys food grain at fair rates so that none could deprive the farmers.

The rally, presided over by Krishak League President and State Minister for Land Rashed Mosharraf, was also addressed by Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Health Minister Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim, State Minister for LGRD Adv Rahamat Ali and Krishak League General Secretary Harunur Rashid Hawlader.

JS body meets in Cox's Bazar today

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 26: For the first time, a parliamentary standing committee goes to the beach town tomorrow to hold its meeting there, reports UNB.

The 22nd meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry will be held at the conference room of Hotel Shaibal.

Officials here said that the committee decided to hold the meeting in the tourist town as law and order situation of the district has deteriorated in recent days, reducing the number of tourists in the world's longest sea beach.

The meeting will discuss steps to improve the deteriorating law and order situation for flourishing the tourism industry, future planning of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation and its ongoing projects with committee chairman Bir Bahadur MP in the chair.

After the meeting, the committee members will visit Teknaf.

Railway to get rails from India

Bangladesh Railway will receive 10,700 metric tons of "A" rails from India worth over Tk 27 crore under an agreement signed between the two countries yesterday, reports BSS.

The rails will be used for the conversion of 34-km metre gauge railway line between Jaydevpur and Dhaka to a dual gauge link.

The fund will be available against Indian government state credit, a press release said.

Bangladesh Railway and Steel Authority of India signed the agreement at Rail Bhawan Conference Room. Additional General Manager of Bangladesh Railways M Shahjahan and General Manager of Steel Authority of India A K Bharna signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

As per the government's decision, Bangladesh Railway has taken up a project for conversion of 34-km metre gauge railway line into a dual gauge link.

This will be an extension of 99-km dual gauge railway link from Jantali to Jaydevpur via Bangabandhu bridge. On completion of this project, direct train communication between Rajshahi, Khulna and Parbatipur with Dhaka will be established, the press release added.

Reunification BFUJ, DUJ leaders decide to expedite the process

The leaders of both factions of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at a meeting yesterday decided to expedite the reunification process of the two unions, reports BSS.

The leaders also urged all the journalists, employees and workers of newspapers and news agencies to make the "Demand Day" programme, organised by Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad, a success.

A grand rally will be held at the National Press Club premises on the day on April 30.

The day's programmes including four-hour work stoppage from 10 am to 2 pm in all newspapers and news agencies.

The meeting also called for taking up effective measures to realise nine-point demand of the Parishad which include payment of 60 per cent dearness allowance.

The meeting decided to take proper steps to reopen the office of journalists' union at the National Press Club and drew the attention of the club authorities in this regard.

The meeting also decided to take proper steps to withdraw all cases filed against the factions of two unions. Presided over by BFUJ leader G M Yakub, the meeting was addressed by Amanullah Kabir, Akhtar Ahmed Khan, M A Aziz, Masud Nazami, Altaf Mahmud, Abu Saleh, Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, Yasin Ahmed, Shubrat Barua, Mahmud Shaqqe, Abul Kalam Manik, Shamim Siddiqui, Modaber Ahmed, Khondoker Anisur Rahman, Moslemuddin, Kazi Rafique, Zakaria Milan, Amin Rokan, Saiful Islam Talukdar, Abdus Shahid, Salimullah Selim, Ziaur Rahman Madhu, Mokarram Hossain, Sajjad Hossain Sabuj, Kibria Chowdhury, Mirza Selim Reza, Molla Jalal, Khurshid Alam, Asaduzzaman Asad and Ali Manud.

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The students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology began a fast-unto-death at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday demanding reopening of the university. — Star photo

Opposition leaders, workers urged to make Sunday's meeting a success

By Staff Correspondent

A meeting of the city unit of the Liaison Committee yesterday discussed the Sunday's joint public meeting of the BNP-led opposition alliance and decided to take all-out efforts to make it a "grand success".

Held at 29 Minto Road in the afternoon with city BNP president and All Party Action Council (APAC) city unit convenor Sadek Hossain Khokha MP in the chair, the meeting also decided to take up 'mass contact' campaign across the city to win people's support.

The alliance will hold the joint meeting at Paltan Maidan on Sunday afternoon to protest the "threats" to the judges of the higher court made by the ruling party ministers and leaders and to press home its demand for immediate resignation of the government.

Heads of the four parties — BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote — are expected to address the Sunday's meeting. Earlier, the alliance held similar meeting at Paltan Maidan on February 13.

The city liaison committee has asked leaders and activists of the opposition parties and the city dwellers to attend the meeting.

Sadek Hossain Khokha also held a meeting with BNP city unit leaders and pro-BNP ward commissioners at his office and discussed the Sunday's meeting.

The meeting decided to launch massive campaign in support of the meeting from today. Besides, distribution of posters and leaflets, the city BNP will arrange wayside rallies and joint meeting of front organisations in all thanas on Friday and bring out processions in all wards in the city on Saturday.

Addressing the meeting, Khokha said the "isolated" Awami League now wants to stay in power by resorting to terrorism and repression. Expressing grave concern over the deteriorating law and order situation and water, gas and electricity crisis, he said the government has failed to bring any positive change in the lives of city dwellers.

Dist hospitals to have eye specialists

GOPALGANJ, Apr 26: Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim has said that eye specialists will be recruited at all district hospitals soon, reports BSS.

He said this at a meeting during visit to the Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Eye Care Project here yesterday.

Besides, the government has taken up a scheme to build 1,500 quarters for doctors working at Upazila and district level hospitals and clinics.

He said the services given by the Fazilatunnesa Mujib Eye Care Project will be extended to all district level hospitals having eye operation facilities with modern equipment.

Under the scheme, the government is planning to provide a patient with eye operation facilities for only Tk 3,000. Patients are being charged from 15,000 to 35,000 taka in private facilities for such operation.

The government has created the posts recently and will start the recruitment soon, he said. The minister said the government will also arrange higher training for the doctors to ensure better services.

The meeting was presided over by chairman of the project and president of Gopalganj district Awami League Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah. It was addressed by Health Secretary Sayed Alamgir Farouk Chowdhury and Director of National Institute of Ophthalmology Prof Syed Modaser Ali.

Director General of Health Prof A B M Ahsanullah, Divisional commissioner of Dhaka and senior officials of the ministry were present.

Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from A-1, A-2, A-3 classes of contractors of this corporation by the Chief Engineer (Civil), Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, Purbarag Bhaban (first floor), No-3, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka for constructing fertiliser godown of Panchagarh Sugar Mills, Panchagarh. Taka 25,000/- (twenty-five thousand) only in the forms of Pay Order /Demand Draft as the security money will have to be deposited with the tender for the said work. No tender will be accepted without security money. Pay Order is acceptable in Dhaka and Demand Draft is applicable for outside Dhaka. All terms and conditions will be available with tender on payment of Taka 750/- (seven hundred and fifty) only in cash (non-refundable) for per set from the Accounts Division, Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, Adamjee Court (4th floor), 115-120, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka From 7-5-2000 to 14-5-2000 during office hours (from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon).

Tenders will be received in the tender box kept in front of the offices of the Chief Engineer (Civil), Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, Purbarag Bhaban (1st floor), No-3, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka till 12:00 Noon on 15-5-2000 and will be opened the same day at 12:15 PM in presence of the tenderers (If there is any). No schedule will be sold after 14-5-2000 at 12:00 Noon. Tenders will be treated as rejected if the rate quoted by the tenderer is less/more than 5% (five per cent) of the total amount of money as mentioned in the schedule. If there are more than one tenderers with the lowest quoted rate then the contractor will be selected by holding lottery. In that case a lottery will be held on 18-5-2000 at 12:00 Noon. The authority reserves the power to accept or reject the lowest tender or any other tender without assigning any reason.

SF-301 DFP-9468-23/4 (MA Matin) Deputy General Manager (Civil)



Children make the most of stagnant water at Motijheel following heavy rains yesterday. — Star photo

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Bangladesh Power Development Board BPDB's Local Tender Notice 1. Local sealed tenders are invited by Bangladesh Power Development Board from renowned local Manufacturers/Suppliers for the procurement of 33 KV Restrike free GCB/VCB complete with BCT 2000 Amps rating as stated below:

BSU protest copying in exams Death threat to Proshika chief condemned

Bangladesh Students Union (BSU) yesterday brought out processions in the city to protest against adopting unfair means in public examinations, reports BSS.

The rally was followed by a procession that paraded city streets. Held under the auspices of the city branch of the Students Union, the rally was held to mark the 48th founding anniversary of the organisation.

The rally held in front of DUCSU office. The student leaders alleged that examinees are lured into copying in the absence of proper education system. They demanded stern steps against adoption of unfair means and vowed to continue their movement as in the past for a better and scientific education system.

A reunion of the former and present members of Students Union took place in the afternoon at TSC.

Students Union, the first non-communal progressive students body came into being in 1952 and played pioneering role in establishing Bangla as a state language.

Different organisations including NGOs yesterday protested and condemned the death threat to Proshika chief Dr Kazi Farook Ahmed by the Secretary General of Islami Oikya Jote Mufti Fazul Haque Amin, reports BSS.

In a statement, president and secretary of Awami Shilp Goshthi Salah Uddin Badal and Sheikh Abdul Hakim condemned the threat by fundamentalist leader Mufti Fazul Haque Amin to Proshika Chief Dr Kazi Farook Ahmed. They urged the government to take immediate punitive measures against fundamental groups and also urged the government to stop their anti-development politics and activities.

In another statement, representatives of 400 non-government organisations in a meeting yesterday protested a recent threat in by Mufti Amin to Dr Kazi Farook and urged all concerned to forge greater unity against the fundamental groups.

Meanwhile, a delegation of ADAB led by its chairperson Khushi Kabir yesterday visited Brahmanbaria following the threat to Kazi Farook Ahmed by Fazul Haque Amin.

Rotary News Weekly meeting The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka will be held today at the CIRDAP Cafeteria at 5.30 pm, says a press release.

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