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AL doesn't use religion for political gain: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday Awami League does not believe in using religion as a political tool; instead it is working for the welfare of the people, which is the main teaching of Islam, reports UNB.

"We do not want to use religion for political gain as was done in the past," she said, addressing members of Madrasah Teachers' Association, principals of different Madrasahs and Ulama at the International Conference Centre in the city.

She said Islam is the religion of welfare, service, peace and humanity and urged the Madrasah teachers to preach Islam to the people in an easy way.

Madrasah teachers from all over the country came to the Prime Minister's office to apprise her of their problems. They also placed some demands to the PM.

Hasina said some political parties dish out propaganda that Islam will be at stake if Awami League is in power. Before every election, they try to confuse the people by spreading such lies.

But, she said, Islam was not at all affected during the rule of the present government. The government has taken every possible step for the development of Islam, instead.

Elaborating the steps taken for the development of Islamic institutions, the prime minister said the government has taken up a project for the beau-

tification of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque by constructing towers.

She said the government has undertaken another Tk 21.80 crore project to impart training to Imams under Imam Training Academy.

Besides, a mass education programme is being conducted through different mosques of the country at a cost of Tk 37.50 crore.

She said some 839 new madrasahs have been included in the MPO while development of 1156 others are going on. In the year 2000, the government has enlisted 485 madrasahs for development.

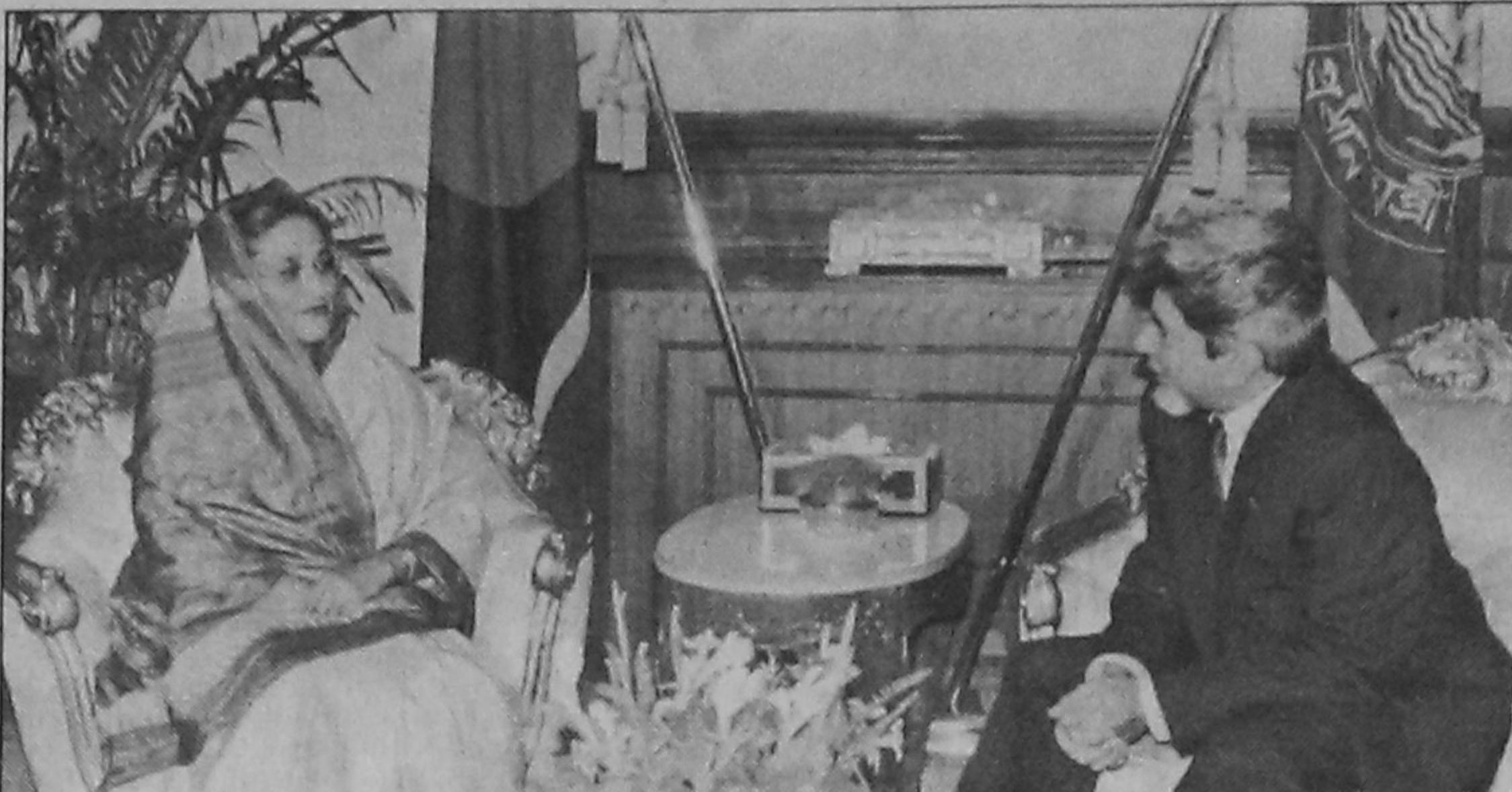
Hasina said the government has come up with a new pay scale doubling the salaries of the government employees. Salary of the Madrasah teachers has also been increased under the new pay scale. She assured that other problems of the Madrasah teachers will also be looked into.

About the appointment of new chief election commissioner, the prime minister said the government sincerely tried to appoint the CEC on a consensus and invited the opposition leader for discussion.

But she regretted that the opposition leader did not respond to the invitation. "When the process of dialogue was going on, the opposition leader at a meeting in Kurigram said that there will be no discussion with the government."

"They (opposition) believe in

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SAARC Secretary General Nihal Rodrigo called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

— PID photo

'Syed was never a governor under Baksal system'

A spokesman of the Prime Minister yesterday strongly refuted BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia's press statement that the new chief election commissioner was a district governor under the BAKSAL system.

"MA Syed had never been a governor under the BAKSAL system in 1975," he said, adding that Syed was a Director, Marketing of BJMC at that time.

The spokesman said Khaleda should know that a former civil servant, Mofazzal

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Rubel murder

Proceedings of case adjourned till June 13

By Court Correspondent

Cross-examination of Ashrafuzzaman, the 12th prosecution witness in the Rubel murder case was completed in the third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judges Court, Dhaka yesterday.

Judge Mollah Mostafa Kamal adjourned the proceedings of the case till June 13.

Zaman in his statement said there was a conflict between the victim's family and the accused Mukuli Begum after setting up of a shop in front of Mukuli's house. He also said that Mukuli Begum filed a general D.G. (D.G.) with Ramma Thana to remove the shop from there.

Shamim Reza Rubel, 24, a BBA student of the Independent University was picked up by a team of DB police from his Sidewall residence on July 23, 1998 and was tortured to death in DB custody the same day.

Repeating to a question, the source said Bangladesh has "consistently rejected and now rejects" the allegation or insinuation by India and asserted that there is no "large-scale infiltration" to India from Bangladesh. "There is no reason for such act," he said.

A Home Ministry spokesman in Delhi on Tuesday said the Indian Government has decided to fence the entire Indo-Bangladesh border.

Meanwhile, Nickelodeon See page 11 col 7

Govt may intervene in cable TV dispute

By Mustak Hossain

The government may intervene in the dispute between cable television operators and a pay channel distributor over the hike of renewal fees.

The row has caused serious inconvenience to thousands of satellite TV viewers in the country.

The Communication Ministry has formed a committee with a joint secretary of the ministry as convenor to investigate various irregularities of the pay channel distributors and cable TV operators.

Cable operators suspended transmission of 12 pay channels including Star Movies, Star Plus, Star World, AXN Action TV, Zee Cinema, TNT/Cartoon Networks and Nickelodeon after Nationwide Communications Limited

Indian decision to fence border won't promote friendship: Bangladesh

The law also aims to establish control over the cable television operation in the country as the government is being deprived of huge revenue.

Satellite television was allowed in the country in 1995 through transmission of two famous news channels, BBC World Service and CNN. But there were no pay channels then, sources said.

Conscious quarters have long been pressing for introduction of a satellite TV regulation to control the satellite culture, which goes against the country's culture in many respects.

The proposed act will be placed before the parliament for endorsement to enact it, the official said.

Presently, there are several thousand cable operators in the country engaged in the satellite TV business that involves an annual turnover of about Tk 100 crore.

Meanwhile, Nickelodeon See page 11 col 7

Night guard killed in Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 24: A night guard identified as Md. Bacha Mia was killed by some unidentified miscreants at Faujdar Bazar in Sitakunda Thana here at around 2.30 am last night.

The miscreants stabbed and beat Bacha Mia with iron rods.

Bacha died on the spot. The miscreants managed to escape.

A case has been filed in this connection.

Fruit trader shot dead in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, May 24: A fruit trader was killed by unknown assailants at Railway Station road in the town today, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said Chandan Shaha, 30, a fruit shop owner at Kandapara, was attacked by the hooligans near Muktar Saw-Mill when he was passing the area along with his sister and a video shopowner at about 5:30 pm.

The gang, who came in a private car, fired on him and stabbed him when he fell on the street, witnesses said. The gang immediately fled the scene.

Locals sent him to Sadar hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Boarding house manager murdered in city

By Staff Correspondent

Manager of a boarding house in the city's East Hajipara under Khilgaon Thana was killed by a boarder and his girl friend yesterday, police and hospital sources said.

Manager Jamsher Ali was hit with a grinder stone at about 11:00 am when he allegedly caught them in an objectionable position, hospital sources said.

Earlier, Jamsher had requested the alleged killers not to use the boarding house for such unsocial activities.

They attacked Jamsher when he went to their room

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Downpour in Ctg: Low-lying areas flooded

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 24: Heavy downpour in the port city triggered water logging in the low-lying areas of Changra, Masterpool, Bakala, Chakta, Bahaddarhat, Bibirhat and Katalgonj.

Local Met Office recorded 309 mm rain fall in the past 24 hours ending at 3 pm today. It also forecast more rains in the next few days.

However, normal life was paralysed in the port city because of heavy downpour that continued till this afternoon.

Cargo handling at Chittagong port was disrupted, but movement of ships was normal.

Sindh governor resigns

KARACHI, May 24: The governor of Pakistan's volatile southern Sindh province resigned today, the official APP news agency said, less than a week after the murder of a prominent Islamic scholar sparked widespread violence, reported Reuters.

Governor Azim Daudpota was the first senior official appointed by military rulers after an October 12 coup to resign.

Daudpota cited personal reasons for his decision to quit, APP said.

His departure from office comes in the wake of a pledge from military ruler Pervaiz Musharraf to stamp out sectarian violence and get a grip on law and order.

the authorised representative of the member with full responsibility and accountability of the member.

They also said the contents of the deed might have created certain legal confusion mainly due to ignorance and pleaded for condonation.

The SEC board later took up the matter on Thursday last and the board recommended cancellation of the registration certificate "for the sake of a fair and disciplined capital market in the country."

Mohammad Ullah told The Daily Star yesterday that he had informed the DSE about his new workstation and accordingly the bourse had installed the online facility there.

He also showed a copy of the application addressed to the IT director of DSE on September 25, 1999, seeking a new online connection at 9/C Motijheel where Al-Madina Securities is located. The SEC officials had also found the rented workstation at the same address.

However, market sources said that when the IT officials of DSE went to install the online facility they found that the address was not of the member and refused to do the job. The broker later submitted a fresh application changing the address to 9/E instead of 9/C and a new traders' workstation (TWS) was installed.

Mohammad Ullah denied to have submitted any fresh application, though.

Another accomplice of Shikdar held

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 24: Khulna police arrested Kabir Hossain, another accomplice of Ershad Shikdar and chief body guard of Jamaat Faruque today.

Kabir, 28, wanted in several criminal cases was arrested from railway colony area. He returned from hiding few days back to start reconstruction of the structures demolished by police last year during drive against Shikdar and his armed cadres.



A colourful procession was brought out in the city yesterday on the occasion of the birth centenary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

— Star photo

জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

গাজীপুর

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