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I won't spare anyone at the cost of party image: PM

MPs warned of 'dire consequences' if they fail to control their unruly sons

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed concern yesterday over the recent deterioration of law and order, especially in the capital city and asked party MPs concerned to take care of their near and dear ones involved in creating the situation.

The PM expressed the concern and issued warnings in the four-hour meeting of the ruling Awami League's parliamentary wing held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. She also presented before the party MPs the outline of the political

strategy she was going to advance with in the near future.

Warning party legislators of "dire consequences" in case they failed to control their unruly sons, the PM told the meeting that she would prefer party interests to those of individuals, meeting sources said.

"The misdeeds of the sons of some MPs have already damaged the image of the party to a great extent. I will not spare any MP in case of their failure to control their sons. I consider party interests above everything, let alone interest of the

individuals," she was quoted to have told the meeting.

However, emerging from the meeting, the prime minister gave replies to questions on certain crucial social and political issues, including worsening law and order, national polls and opposition movement, Election Commission and local government elections, strengthening the security system inside parliament and repeal of the controversial Vested Property Act.

Law and Order

Replying to a question, the

PM admitted that the law and order has deteriorated in the capital city. "Yes, the city has recently witnessed a number of killings. I have already instructed police to book those responsible for the killings irrespective of their political colour or identity."

When her attention was drawn to terrorist activities reportedly carried out by certain ruling party MPs in the capital city, the PM told reporters, "Only the parents would understand how difficult it is to bring

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Budget session begins with Opposition bench empty

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad went into its budget session yesterday morning with the Opposition bench empty.

Security was beefed up in and around the Sangsad Bhaban as the budget session, planned to be a lengthy one, started.

Stepping up of security of the parliament was discussed at the JS Business Advisory Committee meeting on Sunday.

Almost all the Treasury Bench members attended the opening sitting which began at 9:30 am as scheduled. Prime

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Speaker challenges Opposition

By Staff Correspondent

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury yesterday challenged the repeated Opposition claim that they were not allowed by the Chair to speak in parliament on matters of public importance.

Citing facts and figures, the Speaker told parliament that he had always been trying to maintain neutrality in running the House as per the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure of Jatiya Sangsad.

He said he will continue his efforts to maintain neutrality. "The door is open for all irrespective of party affiliation. Any one is welcome to have discussion aimed at resolving problems relating to parlia-

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Rebel Raihan welcomed

By Nazmul Ashraf

The ruling Awami League, in yet another example of political opportunism, welcomed elected MP Raihanul Haq back to the party recently.

Raihan won a Rajshahi by-election recently as an independent candidate, challenging the party nomination of Nurul Islam Thandu.

The rebel AL man attended parliament session for the first time yesterday.

Clad in Mujib coat, Raihan was hesitant to attend the AL lawmakers' meeting after the session was adjourned.

"Why not? You still belong to Awami League," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told a humble Raihan who queried about the matter.

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News Analysis

Is industrial recovery round the corner?

By Inam Ahmed

Is there an industrial recovery round the corner? The symptoms, albeit very fickle, may be showing in the industrial production index.

As it shows from Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) figures, industry showed a 5.6 per cent growth on a point to point basis from June 1999 till January 2000. However, one must keep in mind that in the previous fiscal year, industry was badly hit by floods and last year's industrial production till January 1999 showed a 2 per cent slide.

The average point to point industrial index till January in fiscal 1996-97 was 181 from where it rose to 204.6 in 1997-98 at 12.73 per cent growth. It later slumped to 200.8 point till January of 1998-99 because of flood. This year, the index rose by a modest 5.6 per cent to 212.1 point till January.

This shows a recovery, if one looks at it that way. But this is still far behind the sort of upturn that the year before the flood saw.

In January 2000 alone, pro-

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BNP won't return to JS, donors told

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP formally announced yesterday that it would not attend the current budget session of Jatiya Sangsad as the government is yet to meet its demands and preconditions.

The decision was disclosed by a group of top BNP leaders while briefing representatives of donor countries and agencies in Dhaka at a local hotel.

The team led by Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof AGM Badrud-Doza Chowdhury said the government has destroyed the atmosphere in parliament and turned the House into a forum of the ruling Awami League.

BNP Chairperson's Advisory

Council member MM Rezaul Karim briefed newsmen after the party leaders' meeting with donors.

He said the donors were told about the latest political situation particularly issues concerning parliament, unilateral appointment of Chief Election Commissioner, one-point opposition movement, abuse of Public Safety Act, deterioration of law and order and Upazila polls.

Asked by the donor representatives about Opposition boycott of parliament sessions, the leaders told them BNP and other opposition parties have

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Ecstasy and agony: Pakistan captain and wicketkeeper Moin Khan (right) appeals successfully for a run out decision, one of the five, against Sri Lanka's Russel Arnold (not in the picture) while Marvan Atapattu (middle) anxiously looks on during yesterday's Pepsi Asia Cup match at Bangabandhu Stadium.

—Star photo

Man of the Match



Yousuf Youhana of Pakistan



A shot in Pakistan arms

Sri Lanka rue runout rot

By Hasan Masood

Yousuf Youhana continued with his terrific streak with the bat as Pakistan stroled to a seven-wicket win over holders Sri Lanka in the last league match of the Pepsi Asia Cup at the Bangabandhu National Stadium last night.

The feisty right-hander followed up his magnificent 100 not out against India in the previous match with yet another superlative undefeated 90 as Pakistan, chasing a modest Sri Lankan total of 192 in 50 overs, reached 193 with 10 balls to spare.

The outcome of the match, a dress rehearsal of tomorrow's final, would certainly put Pakistan in a better frame of mind ahead of the Islanders, who conceded their first defeat in the four-nation meet after two successive wins against Bangladesh and India. It was Pakistan's third triumph on trot, though.

Coming in to bat at number three, the compact batsman from Lahore once again played the sheet anchor role after Pakistan lost opener Imran Nazir for a run-a-ball 15.

Youhana shared a 107-run second-wicket partnership with opener Mohammad Wasim before the latter was caught by Upul Chandana at cover off a Jayasuriya delivery.

Playing his first match in the tournament, Wasim fell six runs short of his half-century.



He faced 111 balls for his 44, which included a quartet of boundaries.

Youhana then added 57 runs with Inzamamul Haq, who scored an aggressive 27 before departing, leaving Pakistan just five runs shy of victory. Inzamam offered a simple catch at mid-on trying to drive left-arm seamer Sajewwa de Silva.

The portly Mullan man belted Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya for a huge six. However an on-song Youhana was not ready to

throw away his wicket and remained not out at the kill. In his 130-ball vigil, he smote two sixes and eight boundaries.

His effort earned him the man-of-the-match for the second successive game. Besides, the latest knock took his average to a staggering 270 in three innings that included 80 against Bangladesh.

Earlier, Sri Lanka, looking to put up a decent total for Pakistanis to chase, were shot out for 192 in 49 overs thanks to their wayward batting that saw five Lankan batsmen run themselves out, a quite unusual thing to happen to the islanders who are reputed for their agility between the wicket.

The young blood led immaculate Pakistani ground fielding

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June	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
6		5:11pm
7	5:11 am	

Prayer Timings

June 6		
	Azani	Jamaat
Fajr	4:15	4:45
Zohr	1:00	1:30
Asr	5:00	5:15
Maghrib	6:50	6:55
Esha	8:15	8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation



A citizen's rally was held at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday protesting rising crimes in the city (Story on page 3).

—Star photo

Power tariff, water and sewer rates increased

By Shehab Ahmed

The government has raised power tariff in the country by five paisa per unit and water and sewer rates in the city by five percent.

The enhanced power tariff is effective from March this year. The new water and sewer rates will be effective from next month, sources said.

The rates were increased through separate circulars by the Energy Ministry and the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) on June 1.

The cost of power for domestic subscribers will now be Tk

2.10 per unit up to 300 units and for small industrial units Tk 3.45 per unit. Power used for agriculture has not been raised.

The new water rates will be Tk 4.30 per thousand litres and Tk 19.48 per thousand gallons for a domestic subscriber with meter. The rates will be Tk 14 and Tk 63.54 for commercial and industrial units.

The sewer rates will be equal to water rates for subscribers having both the connections.

"We are forced to raise the water and sewer rates following increase in power rates several

times in the recent past", WASA Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam said defending the hike.

Talking to The Daily Star he said the new water and sewer rates are two to three percent less than the increase in power tariff. The deficit would be met by reducing WASA's system loss from 41 per cent now to 32 per cent by 2002, he said.

He said subscribers who are yet to pay their bills will be allowed to clear those without surcharge till June 20.

WASA now supplies 121

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View from the Gully

A booster for Pakistan

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan

No team wants to lose a match, even if it is an exhibition one. Neither Sri Lanka, resting two star players, nor Pakistan, resting three, wanted to lose. It was not a warm-up match before the final tomorrow but a battle of nerves for the two teams. Pakistan must have been keener to win this contest because they are the ones at the receiving end in the Asia Cup since its beginning in 1984.

So a victory over the holders would give them the right kind of boost they wanted before Wednesday. To go into the final with the definite feeling of winners in the group match comes in handy for the team looking for its maiden regional glory.

Sri Lanka would have liked to have the same feeling before the final as they have an additional burden on their shoulders being the title-holders. A victory yesterday would buck up their morale against a team that has been performing well in recent times. So, winning the toss was a good beginning but the start was disastrous as the star batsman Aravinda de Silva started a trifle late for the other end and found himself short of ground. The trend continued

throughout the innings as half the side was out to brilliant fielding of the Pakistanis, the colts of the side to be precise. When stylish and in-form batsman Marvan Atapattu fell to a doubtful decision of the third umpire, the hope for a respectable Lankan total disappeared. Of course, Upul Chandana made the bowlers understand that he was no novice with the bat. But that could not take the Lankans to the 200 mark which is normally accepted as benchmark in ODIs, particularly on such a placid wicket.

It was very difficult to understand why the third umpire had taken such a decision against Atapattu when the law clearly says that any doubt should go in favour of the batsman. This means, when everyone was sure the ball had touched the ground only the third umpire thought to the contrary. Then, again a simple run out decision involving Muralitharan took him a long time to flash the red signal. Good fielding and bad running notwithstanding, Pakistani bowlers bowled well, particu-

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Beyond the Boundary

Plotting the future

By Shakil Kasem

The last two days have been rather uneventful. After an India-Pakistan match the emotions and pent-up energies of everybody involved are drained and spent. There is not much to look forward to or be agitated about. Yesterday, particularly in the afternoon, the collective feeling of the regulars at our table in the Lounge was akin to that of post-coital depression.

A match was going on, judging by the images on the giant television screen to which not many seemed to be paying much attention. At some point it was observed that Sri Lanka were batting first. How and why they were doing so was not wholly relevant. The fact that they even lost wickets rather quickly was not something that was able to lay too much claim to one's attention. It was a match like any other, a match that was academic to the point of being pointless under the present state of this year's Asia Cup.

With India being shown the door post haste, there is not quite the same degree of interest left among the cricket aficionados in Dhaka. Except perhaps to find out if Pakistan can actu-

ally become champions for the first time, after years of trying. India, four time champions, had to make an undignified exit, smarting from the wounds inflicted by both Pakistan and Sri Lanka, two teams left in the competition after Bangladesh the hosts were sent into exile in their own country.

The regulars at the table therefore had other priorities on their minds. The Snooker Ball dominated the conversation. Whether Sri Lanka would be able to recover from the early dismissals of Aravinda and Jayasuriya was of lesser concern than the persistent tension that refused to go away because there were too many loose ends still left to be sorted out for the mega-event. One was not talking of the final though. It is the 29th that was of major concern.

Atapattu continued to play the lone fiddle while everything burned around him. His was a painstaking knock and he held the innings together for as long as he could. After the fireworks of the last match this form of sedate mournful cricket, where mere survival was the name of the game, was not going down

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