

Metropolitan

People getting taste of real development: Hasina



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talking to a patient at Dhobaura Upazila Health and Family Welfare Complex in Mymensingh district after its inauguration by her yesterday. — PID photo

DHOBURA, Mymensingh, June 21: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is seeking a second term, today sought blessing from the people so that she could continue her service to the nation and complete development work initiated by her government, reports UNB.

"We are striving to ensure a better and improved life and continuing massive development work for the welfare of the common people," she said wishing to serve the people more.

Addressing a huge public meeting at Dhobaura School ground in the afternoon, the Prime Minister said for the steps taken by the government standard of living got elevated and poverty reduced in the country.

"Economic development of the people is going on under the rule of the present government and people are getting the taste of real development," she told the huge crowd who were waiting braving incessant rain.

Sheikh Hasina is the first prime minister ever to visit the remote bordering Thana Dhobaura and addressed the public meeting amid rain.

The PM in her brief speech thanked the people for listening to her ignoring rain and offered a package of development programme for the remote lagged area.

She said the government had already taken a number of programmes for the thana and assured of taking necessary projects for rapid uplift of the area.

Hasina said power would be given to this thana and project taken for the development of roads and bridges and schools and colleges.

"I am aware about your sufferings, because I am also from an undeveloped area, Tungipara. In recent times signs of development are tangible at the upcountry Tungipara," she said and assured all possible development steps of the government.

She said the government had taken special projects for the development of communications and said a bordering road would be constructed soon.

President assents to one bill

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday assented to the "Appropriations (Supplementary) Bill, 2000," reports UNB.

The bill was passed in the current 18th session of Jatiya Sangsad, said a Parliament Secretariat press release.

EC's request to register name in voters' list

As the voters registration work ends on Saturday, the Election Commission (EC) has renewed its request to all left out eligible people to register their names in the voters list, reports UNB.

The EC advised the people, who are yet to be registered, to contact district or upazila election officers, enumerators, supervisor or assistant registration officer by Saturday.

Ruling party member compares budgets of 2 govts with Orange, Satkhara

A ruling party member of the greater Sylhet area yesterday compared the budget presented by Finance Minister SAMS Kibria as bearing the fragrance of delicious orange in stark contrast to the budget by his predecessor which contained the bitter taste of "Satkhara" — another fruit from Sylhet, reports BSS.

"Our budget has all the lovely ingredients of orange while those given to the nation by his predecessor in the BNP government tasted otherwise," commented Enamul Huq Mostafa (Shahid) during his speech on the budget.

Both orange and Satkhara are two special fruits from Sylhet — the former is familiar to all and the latter is generally used in the curry. "Sylhetis" seem to love both the fruits.

Incidentally, Finance Minister Kibria and his predecessor in the previous BNP government Saifur Rahman, both are from Sylhet area.

Enamul Huq said that the budgets presented by the present and former finance ministers were different in tenor and character. He sought to draw parallel between them by mentioning two fruits.

Huq praised the budget and said it deserves full praise while budgets by the BNP government lacked direction and contained no real welfare measures.

British films in Dhaka

The British Council will screen a three day 'British films in Dhaka' at the British Council auditorium from June 27-29, says a press release.

The films which will be screened are Robin Hood, Romeo & Juliet and Venus Peter. The films will be screened at 4:00 pm & 6:30 pm daily according to the following schedule:

Robin Hood (June 27 4:00 pm, June 28 6:30 pm), Romeo and Juliet (June 27 6:30 pm, June 29 at 6:30 pm), Venus Peter, (June 28, 4:00 pm June 29, 4:00 pm).

The Prime Minister said the government had also taken programmes for supplying electricity to the rural people and reaching healthcare services to the doorsteps of the people.

In this regard, she mentioned a government project taken to set up community healthcare centres across the country.

One centre will be set up for every 6000 people, she said, adding in this area 23 community health clinics will be set up. Already tender on ten centres has been completed.

Hasina said the government had also taken development projects for the aborigines living in this hilly area. This year allocation for the tribal people has been increased.

About the welfare of the freedom fighters, the Prime Minister said it cannot be that a single freedom fighter would remain in sufferings during the rule of the present government.

She said the government increased allowance for the freedom fighters and was also providing assistance package to the family members of the FFs and martyrs of liberation war.

Hasina said she and her sister Rehana donated the family assets to Bangabandhu Memorial Trust to give stipends to sons and daughters of the freedom fighters.

"Our efforts are to remove sufferings of the people and do good to the people," she said assuring development efforts for the rural people.

The meeting presided over by Thana Awami League convenor Shamsul Huq, was also addressed by Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman, Health Minister Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Syed Ashraf Islam, Shamsul Huq MP, Ahmed Hossain, Advocate Moharraf Hossain, Waresat Hossain Belal, and local leaders Principal Matiar Rahman, Nazimuddin Ahmed, Iqram Uddin Khan and former student leader Mahabubul Huq Shakil.

Earlier, the Prime Minister inaugurated 31-bed Dhobaura Upazilla Health and Family Welfare Complex, built at a cost of Tk 4.72 crore on six acres of land. She planted two saplings in the premises of the health complex.

Workshop on sex workers begins Saturday

A two-day workshop titled "Experience Sharing and Participatory Future Programme Planning for Sex Workers" begins at IDB Bhaban Saturday, reports UNB.

Socially Disadvantaged People's Programme, Concern Bangladesh will organise the workshop to discuss the status of sex workers and organisations working with sex workers in Bangladesh and India.

Another objective of the workshop is to develop strategies for establishing a nationwide network for the sex workers.

Confce on disaster at BIAM tomorrow

A two-day international conference on disaster organised by Bangladesh Geographical Society will begin on June 23 at the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of Administrative Management (BIAM) at Eskaton in the city, reports BSS.

Dr F Karim Khan, eminent geographer of the sub-continent, will inaugurate the conference.

Twenty-five researchers and experts from India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan alongside local researchers will present papers at the conference.

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