

PM blasts vandalism

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tion politics. She deplored the violence by BNP-backed lawyers who kicked the door of the chamber of the Chief Justice and gheraoed him.

Sheikh Hasina said the lawyers' act was unjustified as "everything is being done under provision of the Constitution."

In this context, she referred to the violence let loose in Chittagong by a BNP MP and his son and said they had attacked a shopkeeper and ransacked his shop during Ramadan. But when the government filed a case under the Public Safety Act, they started agitating.

The Prime Minister alleged that the BNP in alliance with Jamaat was trying to let loose terrorism in the country in a planned way. She alerted the people about such acts.

"You will have to be vocal against this unholy alliance," she told the audience after inaugurating a major road bridge and an EPZ here earlier in the day.

Hasina said when the government was trying to ensure development in all sectors, the BNP-led opposition alliance was trying to disrupt development. The people will not cast vote in favour of terrorists and anarchists, she cautioned her opponents.

She urged the people to vote for Awami League in the coming polls to ensure economic prosperity of the people through completion of the ongoing development work.

Hasina said the anti-liberation alliance of BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat do not want development of the country.

The Prime Minister alleged that the opposition leader handed arms to her student activists to continue terrorist acts in the

country.

"She (Khaleda) considered the students who can use arms competent for leading Chhatra Dal; she wants to use the armed cadres to steal votes," Hasina alleged.

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister laid the foundation of the country's second largest bridge on the Padma to develop a communication network that, she said, would open up a new gateway for economic development.

"Development of communication system is one of the prerequisites for development of a country," she said, referring to her government's massive programmes in the communication sector that started with the successful commissioning of the landmark Bangabandhu Bridge on the Jamuna in 1997.

The Prime Minister announced at the function that this important bridge of the western region would be named after Capt Shahed M Mansur Ali, one of the main organisers of the Liberation War and a victim of jail killing on November 3, 1975.

The 1.78 km bridge will be completed in three years at an estimated cost of Tk 650 crore with assistance from the government of Japan.

The second largest bridge, I hope, would develop road links among the northwestern and southwestern districts and add unprecedented vigour in overall economic activities," the Prime Minister said.

Further, she said, the bridge would accelerate future trade and business with Nepal by easing transportation via Banglabandhu transit.

social motivation to this end.

Barrister Tania Amir said although the maximum punishment for pouring acid is death sentence, the culprits are escaping capital punishment due to lack of evidence as well as witness.

Plastic Surgeon Dr Samonta Lal Sen said that proper treatment can improve condition of an acid victim but the loss inflicted is not completely recoverable.

"We have no other option than stopping incidents of acid pouring," he added.

He put accent on the need for empowerment of women for elimination of the crime from the society.

Human rights activists Advocate Alena Khan and Advocate Salma Ali pointed to the reasons for which the culprits are escaping proper punishment.

Advocate Alena Khan alleged that negligence of police during investigation is also responsible for allowing the culprits to go scot-free.

Popular singers Shuvro Dev and Shakila Jafar sang a song based on acid victims during the programme.

Auranga-Aslam enmity?

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Auranga's followers were shot dead near Farm Gate in 1999 by Aslam's associates.

Taleb, the latest victim of the long-standing rivalry, is believed to have been Auranga's 'right hand.' A member of the convening committee of Jubo League Dhaka (North) and prospective commissioner candidate for Ward No. 99 was gunned down, reportedly by Aslam's men, as he came out of a mosque after saying his Jum'a prayer.

Taleb became an eyesore for Aslam's men as he asserted control on toll collection from Farm Gate autorickshaw stand and Karwan Bazar. He was also involved in tender business.

Sources said that local Jatiya

Party leader Dildar who had allegedly fired gunshots in front of Taleb's residence a couple of months back, was also involved in the killing and so were his younger brother Babul, also a commissioner candidate, and Milan, allegedly member of the Sweden Aslam gang.

Meanwhile, a murder case against seven persons was filed in Tejgaon thana in this connection. None was however arrested in connection with the killing till the filing of this report at 7:30pm last night.

When contacted, duty officer of Tejgaon police said that they were on the case and trying to find out clues. "We are also trying to nab the killers of Taleb," they added.

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Indo-Bangla relationship.

Necessary steps would be

taken after submission of the feasibility report in July, said Razzak. "We'll start the study of our own and hope to get assistance from the donor countries and agencies."

Razzak said reaching a permanent arrangement on sharing of the Teesta waters is very complicated because of the fact that there is also a barrage on the river on the Indian side.

Therefore, he said, the interim arrangement to be made as soon as possible would continue until a scientific arrangement is made, as suggested by the experts committee earlier.

Razzak said India has also offered expertise and technical

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Forest Department sources said a five-year garden development project was undertaken in Doubleremoing and Panchalish thanas in Chittagong in 1994-95. But due to some problems in land management, the project could not be implemented.

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Hartal in Ctg

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President S M Nurul Huq and some other chamber leaders yesterday held a discussion with Jamaat leaders at the chamber house. The meeting ended inconclusively.

A source said Javed was trying to arrange a meeting between his father Akeruzzaman Babu and Jamaat leaders for withdrawal of 48-hour hartal.

Javed is trying to bring his father in limelight of Chittagong politics by organising the negotiation, the source added.

Babu, however, attended a reception in honour of him by his supporters at Muslim Hall in the city today.

No action was taken against the police officer who had submitted the charge sheet in the case.

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Afzal Rahman, father of the boy, appeared before the magistrate's court with Lebu on his shoulder on January 10 and granted bail to his son.

No action was taken against the police officer who had submitted the charge sheet in the case.

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