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Confrontational politics worries EU envoys

Political stability major condition for continued aid, they iterate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Diplomats of the European Union countries have expressed concern over the confrontational politics in Bangladesh, saying political stability is the major condition for continued development assistance to the country.

"Democracy also means listening to opponents and doing reasonable compromises," President of the EU missions in Dhaka Anders Johnson told the Meet-the-Reporters programme of the

Dhaka Reporters Unity at its office in the city yesterday.

Terming the upcoming general election very crucial for Bangladesh, he said they wanted to see a free, fair and peaceful election with enhanced participation.

"The European Union (EU) is closely watching political developments in Bangladesh and will monitor the upcoming polls," said Johnson, also the Swedish ambassador.

He said the EU was worried about the current political con-

frontation and acts of violence including assaults on journalists, and asked the political parties to show restraint. "The whole country is suffering due to acts of violence, which are also affecting the development works. Development aids depend on the country's image."

Referring to the recent meeting between an EU delegation and the chief election commissioner, Johnson told reporters that they discussed proper observance of the coming general election.

Envoys of Britain, Germany, France, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands and head of the delegation of the European Commission also attended the programme, held on the day before the Europe Day.

DRU President M Anwarul Haq moderated the programme while its General Secretary Mottahar Hossain Masum delivered the welcome speech.

Ambassador of the Netherlands J L Ijzermans also echoed the sentiment of his Swedish colleague. "Yes, we would like to see

the polls held in a free, fair and peaceful manner. We'll follow the coming vote very closely because we want to contribute to the holding of a fair election."

The Dutch envoy appreciated the government move to grant autonomy to the state-run radio and TV but was worried at the rising acts of assault on journalists.

French Ambassador Michel Lammaux viewed that the journalists had a very important role to

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Dengue strikes back but govt yet to wake up

STAR REPORT

Four dengue patients have so far been identified at the city hospitals, but precautionary measures by the government are very poor, sources said.

"The government did not take initiative to install three platelet detectors although the World Health Organisation (WHO) has allocated fund to this end," said one source, who asked not to be named.

Platelet separators are used to separate platelets from blood for treatment of dengue patients.

The machines have been allocated for Shishu Hospital, Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where most dengue patients were treated last year. There is only one platelet separator at Red Crescent Blood Centre at Mohammadpur.

The Health Department did not publish the much-talked-about "National Guideline for Dengue Management", a brochure

for the physicians who treat dengue.

The source said the directorate of Disease Control was assigned to publish the brochure in Bangla last year, but the department did not pay heed to it.

Four patients were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Shishu Hospital. Of them, one was released from the Shishu Hospital while the condition of another patient has improved and would be released soon.

The condition of patients at DMCH is gradually improving and they would be released soon, the on-duty doctors said.

The onset of the disease is a little earlier this year due to arrival of rain, Kanakranjan Talukdar, director of Disease Control told The Daily Star.

He said, "We apprehend that the dengue would continue in the country this year as there is no way to curb it."

Talukdar said prevention is the only way, as no specific antibiotic for the treatment of the disease has been found.

The maintaining of fluid should be the focal point of treatment, he added. Some patients died last year due to the ignorance of physicians.

"Doctors, patients and guardians have to be cautious but need not to panic," Talukdar said.

He also said, "Although we are yet to receive information on dengue fever, we are corresponding with different district offices for information."

Aedes mosquitoes lay eggs in the clean stagnant water. However, the incessant rain may wash away the mosquito larvae.

As many as 93 patients most of whom are children died of dengue

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Police raid den of Mamun's men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Metropolitan Police yesterday raided a hill area of Kalapania, adjacent to the Chittagong cantonment to arrest some of the accomplices of terrorist ward commissioner Mamunur Rashid Mamun.

Police raided the area on receipt of information that 28 armed cadres of Mamun Bahini are staying in a hideout of the hill area.

However, prayer for taking Mamun on remand for questioning was not made yesterday.

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INSIDE TODAY

Article 4

Parliament's growing irrelevance; Democracy hijacked!

Praful Bidwai writes from New Delhi

Focus 5

Election in West Bengal: Left front hopes to retain its hold

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
May 9		6.31 pm
May 10	5-19 am	

Prayer Timings

May 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-30	6-35
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

A diagnosis of diagnostic centres in city

Fees vary with 'commission' for doctors

NAIMUL HAQ

Most diagnostic centres in the city pay a hefty portion of their earnings to doctors as 'commission' for referring their patients to these private establishments.

Such a practice is alleged to have made medical tests expensive, as some of these centres charge unreasonable fee to make

up for the 'commission' paid to doctors.

Management of certain diagnostic centres admitted that they survive this way while others said that the rates have been fixed so that they do not have to compromise with quality.

A Daily Star investigation revealed that despite using almost identical reagents, methods, ap-

paratus, and equipment in the tests, the fee charged by different diagnostic centres vary significantly.

For instance, acid phosphates, a biochemical test, would cost Tk 300 at Samorita Hospital, Tk 150 at Central Hospital, Tk 200 at BIRDEM and Tk 100 at Gonoshasthaya Kendra Nogar Hospital (GKNH). Lipid profile, another biochemical test, would cost Tk 650 at Samorita, Tk 600 at BIRDEM and Tk 170 at GKNH.

Cholesterol test at Samorita or Lab Aid would cost Tk 140, at Central Hospital Tk 150, at BIRDEM Tk 100 and at GKNH Tk 80.

The fee for blood for culture and sensitivity (C/S), a microbiological test, at Samorita is Tk 500, at Central Hospital Tk 450, at BIRDEM Tk 300 and at GKNH 200.

Throat swab C/S test would cost Tk 250 at Lab Aid or Samorita, Tk 250 at Central, Tk 250 at BIRDEM and Tk 100 at GKNH.

Radiological test fees also vary

from one diagnostic centre to another although the imaging machines and films they use are basically the same.

At Samorita, single X-ray exposure of chest or shoulder or spine or wrist or skull or hip or elbow or any other bones and joints would cost Tk 120. Charges for both views would be double. But the average cost of X-ray elsewhere is not more than Tk 80.

More sophisticated imaging like barium meal stomach or duodenum costs Tk 600 at Samorita, Tk 575 at Central, Tk 400 at BIRDEM and Tk 375 at GKNH.

Barium meal follow-through costs Tk 750 at Samorita, Tk 1,025 at Central Hospital, Tk 500 at BIRDEM. Barium enema of colon costs Tk 900 at Samorita, Tk 825 at Central, Tk 500 at BIRDEM and Tk 475 at GKNH.

At Samorita, charges for CT scan for brain costs Tk 3,200, CT scan for neck or cervical spine is Tk 4,500, CT scan of chest Tk 4,500, whole abdomen Tk 9,000.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Autonomy for Betar, BTV

Govt move seen as bid to 'bluff' people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The latest government move to give autonomy to the state-run electronic media came under fire from political circles for some 'controversial' provisions in the draft laws that cabinet gave approval on Monday last.

Instead of giving autonomy to Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television, the government was trying to further consolidate its control over these, they said.

Barrister Nazmul Huda, a former information minister of the country, bitterly criticised the government for "bluffing the people", in the name of granting autonomy to the state-run electronic media.

"Autonomy means self-rule. If government continues to enjoy the hiring and firing authority, then what sort of autonomy would it be?" Huda told The Daily Star yesterday.

Huda, a vice chairman of the main opposition BNP, termed the provisions that empower the government to appoint chairmen and members for two authorities, one for radio and the other for television, a departure from the autonomy commission's recommenda-

tion that President of the country would be the appointing authority.

When asked why the BNP government took no steps in this regard, the former information minister said, "We intended to give autonomy to the state-run media but time ran out before we could complete the process."

He claimed that the two media - Betar and BTV - had been politicised during the previous regimes of Awami League and Jatiya Party. "I tried hard during my stint as information minister to neutralise the institutions first and time ran out before I could give autonomy to these."

Left Democratic Front leader Rashed Khan Menon dubbed the government's move as pre-poll bluff as the draft laws vested all control to the government.

"Instead of formation of a National Broadcasting Commission as recommended by the autonomy commission, the government is now forming two separate authorities and government itself would appoint members of these bodies. Indeed Awami League is fooling the people," said Menon, also the general secretary of Work-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Nor'wester kills seven, damages houses, crops across country

STAR REPORT

Severe nor'wester killed at least seven people and injured 80 others in several districts including Rajshahi, Naogaon, Sirajganj, Satkhira, Barguna, Patuakhali and Pirojpur during the last 24 hours ending 6:00 p.m. yesterday.

Four persons were killed in Tanore upazila of Rajshahi, two in Sadar and Betagi upazilas of Barguna and the other in Manda upazila of Naogaon district.

The storms also caused damage to homesteads, crops and educational institutions, uprooted trees and snapped power lines.

The victims were identified as Idris Ali, 42, of Bhaluka Kandi, Dulal, 42, of Amtipur, Sonatan, 20, of Komla Hatpara, Anwar Hossain, 25, of Dhadum village in Tanore, Abdul Khaleque, 45, of Sadar and Siraj, 5, of Betagi upazilas, and Rezaul Karim, 25, of Manda.

Sources said at least 15 people were injured when a mud-wall of Mohammadpur Memorial College in Tanore collapsed on the same day.

Another storm coupled with heavy rain on Monday also flattened homes and educational institutions in three upazilas of Pirojpur, which has suffered

power outage since the storm.

The coastal areas also experienced high winds and heavy rains yesterday. Northwestern Rangpur and Dinajpur region aside, the inclement weather affected almost all parts of the country, the Department of Meteorology said.

In the coastal district of Patuakhali, according to local Red Crescent Society sources, 18 fishermen remained missing since Monday night as five trawlers, namely FB Shamim, FB Nasir, FB Nabo Bodhu, FB Mizan and FB Zidan sank in the Andar Manik and Ramnabadi rivers in Kalapara upazila after being caught by nor'wester.

Dark clouds blanketed the sun for the better part of the day yesterday in the capital, which re-

corded 52 mm rainfall until 6 p.m. since morning.

Met Office forecast more rain and storms today and also tomorrow. The weather may gradually start improving from tomorrow, it added.

In Dhaka city, the drainage system already burdened with Monday's rains spilled the sewage onto the streets.

The rain disrupted the city life, and motorists found it difficult to move fast on the flooded streets.

The pedestrians during the morning rush hours had to depend on the whims of the operators of a limited number of cycle rickshaws and auto-rickshaws who ignored the rough weather. A number of vehicles broke down.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের কর আদায় সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, বকেয়া কর আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে খেলাপি করদাতাগণকে পুনঃ পুনঃ অনুরোধ ও নোটিশ দেওয়ার পরও অনেকেই এখনো কর পরিশোধ করেন নাই। বকেয়া কর আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে ইতিমধ্যে ত্রৈমাসিক নোটিশ জারী করা হইয়াছে। ত্রৈমাসিক নোটিশ প্রাপ্ত খেলাপি করদাতাগণকে নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে বকেয়া কর পরিশোধ করিতে অনুরোধ করা হইল। অন্যথায় নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর ত্রৈমাসিক কর পরিশোধের মাধ্যমে বকেয়া কর আদায়ের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হইবে।

সিটি করপোরেশনের এলাকায় বিদ্যমান দোকান/ব্যবসা প্রতিষ্ঠান এর মালিকগণকে ৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে নিজ নিজ দোকান/ব্যবসা প্রতিষ্ঠানের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স গ্রহণ/নবায়নের জন্য চূড়ান্তভাবে অনুরোধ করা হইল। অন্যথায় মডেল ট্যাক্স সিডিউলের ৪৩ ধারা লংঘন করিয়া ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ছাড়া ব্যবসা করার জন্য তাহাদের বিরুদ্ধে মোবাইলকোর্টের মাধ্যমে ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হইবে।

উল্লেখ্য যে, বাড়িঘরের কর, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স নবায়ন/গ্রহণ ও দোকান ভাড়া পরিশোধের সুবিধার্থে কর অঙ্গল-১ হইতে ১০ পর্যন্ত সকল অঙ্গলের কর কর্মকর্তার দপ্তর ও বাজার শাখার কর কর্মকর্তার দপ্তরসহ নগরভবনস্থিত রাজস্ব বিভাগের সকল শাখা সাপ্তাহিক ছুটির দিন শুক্রবার সকাল ৯-০০ ঘটিকা হইতে বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা ও শনিবার সকাল ৯-০০ ঘটিকা হইতে বেলা ২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত খোলা থাকিবে।

ডিসি/পিআরডি/৪৯০/০০-০১

জিডি-৪৩০

প্রধান রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা।

15 murdered in city in first week of this month

SHAIKH NAZRUL ISLAM

Criminal activities like murder and mugging in the city are on the rise, as at least 15 people were killed in the first week of May.

Of them, five were murdered on Friday and five on Monday.

In most of the cases, police have failed to nab the 'real' killers.

On May 2, body of an unidentified girl, aged about 17, was recovered from a lake at Mirpur. Police said the girl was raped and killed. Later, the criminals threw the body into the water. The identity of the victim could not be known.

The same day in another incident, Badda police recovered the body of a five-year-old boy from a pond of Basundhara Residential Project. There were marks of injury in his throat.

Hotelier Amjad Hossain, 27,

was stabbed to death by miscreants at Sanatnagar in the city's Zikatala area on May 3. Amjad was attacked when asleep in his hotel.

An alleged mugger Amjad Hossain, 30, was beaten to death by the mob on Airport Road in the city's Cantonment area the same night. The incident took place as he snatched an auto-rickshaw and tried to flee along with the driver. Local people chased and beat him up which caused his death.

Farhad Hossain Babu, a garment 'cut-piece' trader, was shot dead in front of a cinema hall at DIT Road in Khilgaon area on May 4. Miscreants called him out of his residence and gunned him down.

The same day, an alleged mugger was shot dead and three others were arrested while they tried to snatch valuables from two rickshaw passengers at Palashi in the city. Police opened fire on the

muggers who were fleeing after blasting crackers.

In another incident, Lalbagh police recovered the body of an unidentified young man from Hossain Uddin Lane in the city the same day. He was stabbed to death.

The body of another unidentified woman, 17, was recovered from a mess in Rupnagar Residential Area on May 4. The victim was working as a maid at the mess. Police suspected that she might have been strangled to death and later hung from the ceiling.

The body of Mohammad Zakir Hossain, 27, son of Samsul Haq of Dakkhin Khan was recovered by Khilgaon police from Balamath, Meradiab in Khilgaon area. Zakir was a 'dollar-trader' and had rivalry with Iskander, a businessman, family sources said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Inauguration of New Office



Thakral Information Systems Private Limited (Bangladesh) a joint venture with Esquire Group of Company, inaugurates their new office at BSRS Bhaban. The inauguration was on the 22nd April 2001, by Mr. Mofazzal Hossain Managing Director of Thakral Information Systems Pvt. Ltd. and Chairman of Esquire Group. Mr. K. S. Kohli and Mr. Ravi Lakshman are also seen at the inaugural ceremony on the day.

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