

Coup brought stability

FROM PAGE 1 as a problem left over by history.'

The two leaders met the press after the first round of formal talks between them.

Zhu also praised Beijing's military cooperation with Islamabad, according to AFP.

"China and Pakistan have carried out fruitful cooperation in all areas of defence. Our cooperation is based on strict observance of international agreements," Zhu said.

Military sources have said the governments are engaged in talks on a joint venture to build a Super-7 fighter aircraft, and that Pakistan was also interested in buying about 30 F-7MIG fighter jets from China.

The United States has also accused China of supplying Pakistan with nuclear-capable M-11 missile technology, which raised concern after New Delhi and Islamabad exchanged tit-for-tat nuclear tests in 1998.

Islamabad insists its military ties with China are in line with international accords and the Missile Technology Control Regime.

However, both their armed

forces and scientific establishments maintain close cooperation.

Another report says, Musharraf said yesterday, Pakistan was opposed to US President George W. Bush's controversial plan to build a missile defence shield.

"We are against any action that re-initiates nuclear and missile race," Musharraf, accompanied by Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji, said during their visit to the picturesque Shakarpurian resort near Islamabad.

The official Associated Press of Pakistan said the general was responding to a Chinese journalist who sought his comments on Washington's planned National Missile Defence (NMD) programme.

Zhu's four-day trip to Pakistan coincided with US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage's visit to New Delhi for talks with Indian leaders on NMD plan.

Bush has announced a proposal to set up a 60 billion dollar NMD, designed to protect the US from missile attacks by what Washington considers "rogue states."

President Shahabuddin Ahmed addressing the conference of Greater Mymensingh Coordination Council at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: PID

President Shahabuddin Ahmed addressing the conference of Greater Mymensingh Coordination Council at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday.

Save Buriganga

FROM PAGE 1 of buildings were prepared by a sub-committee headed by Prof Nazrul Islam and those on environment by Nurul Huda, Chief Executive Officer of the Dhaka City Corporation.

The 25-member committee comprises officials, academics and civic society leaders.

The committee has recommended strict control on construction of high rises and protection of wet lands and open spaces from encroachers. High rises should not be allowed without provision for appropriate roads and adequate space around.

It said there should be open space of 100 metres on the banks of Buriganga. The legal occupants should be compensated and illegal structures evicted, it said.

Discharge of effluents to the Buriganga must be stopped. There should be a water grid connecting

the Buriganga with Shitalakhy, Balu and Turag rivers to provide for a circular waterway around the city.

Besides easing traffic, the water grid will ensure a better environment around the metropolis and protect wetlands and floodplains.

For better waste management, the committee suggested introduction of 'plasma' treatment technology, involving the private sector.

It also recommended that a fund be created with money from polluters for better maintenance of the environment.

Attack on Jubo Dal procession at Tongi: 8 hurt

UNB, Gazipur

At least eight people were injured when a procession of Jubo Dal came under attack by the rivals at Tongi yesterday afternoon.

The procession was brought out from Tongi Bazar to protest filing of cases against Jubo Dal activists under the Public Safety Act.

Both sides exploded home-made bombs during the incident. Vehicular movement on Dhaka-Mymensingh road was disrupted for an hour.

The situation returned to normal when police intervened and chased the clashing groups.

DSE computers

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The news created panic in the market and the SEC later formed a three-member investigation committee which traced the computer on Wednesday.

DSE sources say that the intrusion into the DSE server was made through a WAN connection while the computer that SEC had identified was on the premises of DSE which uses the local area network (LAN).

DSE is now desperately looking for their system administrator who has gone into hiding. Both DSE and SEC now feel that the system administrator knew the actual number who may be in possession of the software.

DSE filed cases against the administrator, the broker concerned and two authorised representatives the broker who were caught with the software.

Rupsha Bridge

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out of their homes and pressed for shifting elsewhere with the things, which do not come under the project.

Legal complications are causing delay in making payment. The legal process of acquiring land is yet to be completed. It is not a 'joke' to evict the people from their ancestral land and make payment without assessing the value of property properly, said an official of the District Administration.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to lay the foundation stone of the bridge on May 30.

Six including 3 snatchers hurt in cracker blasts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six persons including three snatchers were injured when they exploded crackers as people chased them near the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday morning.

The injured were identified as pedestrians Salam, 25, Ashek Ali, 25, rickshaw puller Bahar and snatchers Serajul Islam, 32, Serajul Islam, 25 and Selim, 25.

The injured were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

Witness said a gang of four snatchers stopped a rickshaw near the Minar and attempted to mug valuables from the passenger. As he raised an alarm, people nearby started chasing them. The muggers then tried to flee exploding three crackers.

Police later arrested the injured muggers from DMCH.

A case was filed with Ramna thana in this connection.

CHT team

FROM PAGE 1 of the Peace Accord Implementation Committee and Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah on Tuesday and Education and Law Ministers and prime minister's principal secretary on May 17.

A source in the Regional Council said the team is scheduled to meet the Prime Minister on May 18.

Regional Council sources said problems relating to formation of Land Commission, execution of rules and laws, status of RC members, appointment of police and such other vital issues are yet to be resolved despite the government's claim of implementation of most of the CHT accord.

Earlier in March, a 5-member team had a discussion with the Prime Minister and different ministries about full implementation of the peace accord.

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Khaleda: AL terrorists

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The opposition leader said Bangladesh is not safe under the Awami League government which she said handed over country's lands to others and failed to protect the border.

Instead of appreciating the deeds of those who sacrificed their lives for protecting the soil of the country and its people the government apologised to India, she added.

She said frontier areas of the country have been at stake during the last five years of Awami League rule. The government failed to protect the border and has created scope for smuggling by keeping the border open resulting in smuggling of goods worth some Tk 54,000 crore yearly.

"The government should not be left in power any longer and it should not be allowed to return to power," she said.

Khaleda said the country's capital city is unprotected under the

rule of Awami League. "There is no security of the people while killings, dacoity and snatching are occurring everyday."

"Characteristics of the rule of Awami League is that it can't keep its commitment. It didn't implement any pre-election pledge," she alleged.

About the ruling party's pledge to give autonomy to radio-TV, she said BTV has now turned into ATV (Awami League TV). Instead of giving autonomy, she said, the government has politicised the electronic media.

The opposition leader said the prime minister does not speak the truth in parliament and at public meetings, nor does she depict the real picture of the country.

Khaleda said BNP believes in politics of progress, strengthening the foundation of democracy, establishing rule of law, improving law and order and improving country's economy.

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Work hard to attract more investment

FROM PAGE 1

The prime minister said the image of the nation had already been changed abroad specially after solving the CHT problem peacefully and settling the long-standing Ganges water-sharing problem with India.

"Just think what was the image of the country five years ago before the present government. Bangladesh is now a nation of prospects and promises," she said and urged the envoys to utilise this new image for economic benefit of Bangladesh.

Hasina said her government gave thrust on information technology and agriculture sector and asked the Bangladesh envoys to encourage the foreign investors to invest in these sectors. She called for promoting the export of skilled manpower, especially IT professionals, from the country.

Referring to recent border disputes with India, she said the government admirably solved the problem without any cooperation from the opposition parties. Instead of extending cooperation, she told the meet, the opposition rather created obstacles and confusion in the way of solving the problem.

Speaking about the upcoming election, the prime minister urged the diplomats to project the concept of nonparty caretaker government

in Bangladesh to ensure a fair and impartial election.

"Spell out the concept of caretaker government which is something unique, and the election will be held under a nonparty caretaker administration," she said.

"Tell the governments of the countries you are staying in that during the election the interim government will be headed by a chief justice only for holding the election in a free and fair atmosphere and the party which will win the election will assume power."

About the trial of the killers of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Prime Minister said the trial was held in a normal court instead of a special tribunal to ensure transparency and fairness.

Verdict has been pronounced against the killers, but some of them are staying abroad, she said suggesting that the Bangladesh envoys should motivate the countries so that the killers cannot get shelter anywhere.

Referring to the opposition movement, the prime minister said her government was ready for an early election and even President Shahabuddin Ahmed suggested that the opposition sit for discussion with the ruling party for that. "But they did not accept the proposal and

continued movement, which created the present standoff."

She said the present government proved its competence in all sectors and it had restored economic discipline and attained success in macroeconomic management. The rate of inflation has been controlled while growth rate increased remarkably.

The government, which has also successfully tackled the devastating floods in 1998 and cyclone in 1997, has attained self-sufficiency in food by producing 2.70 crore metric tons of rice.

Hasina described her struggle for establishing democracy in the country and voting right of the people and also apprised the function of the steps taken by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman during his rule to build up the war-ravaged country.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abu Hasan Chowdhury also suggested that the mission chiefs follow economic diplomacy taking advantage of the bright image the country to net increased volumes of investment that Bangladesh needs for supporting its growing economy.

He said the leaders of different countries highly appreciated the concept of caretaker government and told the envoys to project the concept.

HSC exams: 120 hurt in violence

FROM PAGE 1

total of 307 examinees were expelled at different centres in Rajshahi district, 132 in Nawabganj, 78 in Natore, 251 in Pabna, 528 in Sirajganj, 211 in Bogra, 53 in Joypurhat, 362 in Rangpur, 334 in Gaibandha, 102 in Kurigram, 145 in Lalmonirhat, 290 in Dinajpur, 365 in Thakurgaon and 91 in Panchagarh.

Some 808 examinees were expelled under the Jessore

Education Board (JEB). Of the expelled 57 were in Sathkhira, 24 in Magura, 100 in Jhenaidah, 29 in Narail, 67 in Jessore, 50 in Bagerhat, 71 in Khulna, 273 in Kushtia, 89 in Chuadanga and 48 in Meherpur.

Forty-eight were expelled in Sylhet, 35 in Habiganj, 31 in Moulavibazar and 37 in Sunamganj. The number of expelled from the Kamalganj centre, however, was not available.

Some 876 examinees were expelled at different examination centres under the Chittagong Education Board (CEB). Of the expelled 668 were expelled at different examination centres in Chittagong district. Ninety-nine were expelled in Cox's Bazar, 107 in Rangamati, 9 in Bandarban.

The development partners and donors include Japanese government, British DFID, USAID, Rotary International, UNICEF and WHO.

Out of the total 64 million polio doses required for 9th NIDs Japan is providing more than 50 million.

Education Board (JEB).

Development partners and donors are giving financial and technical assistance to make the country free from polio while the government meets the costs of all operations, vaccines, training and advocacy.

Some 494 examinees were expelled on the second day of the ongoing HSC examination at different centres under the Barisal Education Board. A total of 254 were expelled in Barisal, 66 in Patuakhali, 26 in Borguna, 53 in Pirojpur, 33 in Jhalokathi and 62 in Buthia.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj adds: at least 30 persons were injured in a clash between copy suppliers and police at Chandaikona Haje Wahed Morium Degree College centre about 12:30pm. Police and witness said the clash ensued when police intercepted copy suppliers.

Clashes also took place at different centres including the ones in Shahjahanpur, Kamarkandi, Belukuchi, Chowdhury and Tanghat of Kazipur.

Five invigilators were injured when expelled examinees attacked them at the Govindaganj Degree College Centre.

According to sources, the examinees went berserk, damaged residence and window panels and college boundary, attacked the principal at his official residence and put up barricade on Dhaka-Dinajpur highway for three hours.

Some 3,419 examinees and six teachers were expelled in different examination centres under the Rajshahi Education Board (REB). A

total of 1,881 examinees and three teachers were expelled from different examination centres under Dhaka Education Board (DEB).

Of the expelled 13 were in Dhaka city, nine in Dhaka district, 21 in Manikganj, 29 in Munshiganj, 58 in Narayanganj, 277 in Narshingdi, 67 in Gazipur, 304 in Mymensingh, 40 in Kishoreganj, 202 in Netrokona, 388 in Jamalpur, 122 in Tangail, 96 in Sherpur, 72 in Faridpur, 49 in Madaripur, 47 in Shariatpur, 64 in Gopalganj, and 23 in Rajbari. Three teachers were also expelled in Narshingdi.

A total of 1,488 examinees were expelled at different examination centres under the Comilla Education Board.

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