

Coup brought stability

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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-7 MIG 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 Shakarparian 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."

Save Buriganga

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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 Shitalakhya, 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 batter 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.

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

Khaleda Zia 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.



PHOTO: PID

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

Work hard to attract more investment

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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 of 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 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 Abul 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

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tion.

Chairman of the Barisal Education Board, Deputy Commissioner Barisal, two assistant Deputy Commissioners and other higher officials visited the college yesterday following the violent incident at the centre on the first day of the HSC examination.

Seven persons were arrested from the government college centre in connection with the Thursday's incident of damaging furniture of the centre.

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 Peropur, 33 in Jhalokhati and 62 in Bhola.

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 Shahjadpur, Kamarkandi, Belkuchi, Chowali and Tanglata of Kazipur.

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

According to sources, the examinees went berserk, damaged furniture 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 Rajshahi Education Board (REB). A

total of 307 examinees were expelled at different centres in Rajshai 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 Satkhira, 24 in Magura, 100 in Jhenaidah, 29 in Narail, 67 in Jessore, 50 in Barghat, 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 Kamolganj 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 number of expelled under the CEB might be higher as the statistics from Khagrachari could not be obtained due to bad telephone lines between Chittagong and Khagrachari, CEB officials said.

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 Narsinghdi, 67 in Gazipur, 304 in Mymensingh, 49 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 Narsinghdi.

A total of 1488 examinees were expelled at different examination centres under the Comilla Education Board.

Load shedding

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motors in mills, workshops and residential house. Use of normal motors account for about 40 per cent of the total power consumed in the country, he said.

Rahman said donors are giving soft loan to countries adopting modern energy saving devices. Bangladesh can also avail this.

He urged the government to formulate a policy for energy conservation and proposed setting up of an energy conservation centre for research.

politics and eventually, in manifold crimes, residents of Mohammadpur area said.

They said Bismar became desperate when his elder brother Mostafa was killed by his rival Joseph, a notorious criminal of the city, following a feud over underworld politics.

He also had rivalry with ward commissioner Ratan of Ward-46 over sharing of proceedings from illegal businesses in the Geneva Camp. Sources said the camp is a big spot for business of Phensidyl cough syrup and other narcotics, and illegal arms.

Recently, he led a controversial DCC sponsored drive to demolish some structures constructed illegally by the stranded Pakistanis of Geneva Camp. Residents of the camp alleged that Mizan started demolishing their establishments on their refusal to pay him TK 500 per

Mizan planted 'bomb' to implicate rivals?

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The same day the incident had occurred Mizan filed a case with the Mohammadpur police who arrested four persons, including driver Kamal, who are now detained in the Dhaka Central Jail. Rahman, Sobhan and Shahim are the other arrested.

Investigating officer of the case Sub-Inspector Mohsin told the Daily Star that they were yet to receive any report from army bomb disposal unit.

Sources in the Mohammadpur police station said that Mizan was implicated in the Yunus murder case early last year and that the murder case was now being investigated by the CID.

Mizan alleged that some people from the Geneva Camp, where the stranded Pakistanis generally live, in his constituency had planted the

bomb, as he recently launched a drive to demolish some of the illegal structures there.

An ordinary boy-turned-millionaire, Mizan associated himself with Mohammadpur Jubo League for a while before being elected ward commissioner in 1994 on Awami League ticket. He is also the president of City Corporation Commission Samannaya Parishad of Bangladesh.

Hailing from Nalchhiti of Jhalakathi district, he was initially 'a petty criminal' in the area. But, soon he had his fair share of notoriety in the crime world with the blessings of some local terrorists loyal to Jubo League leaders.

He was better known as Chakku Mizan for his exploits with the knife in committing crimes in Mohammadpur area. Later, he became involved in underworld

President stresses balanced development of all regions

BSS, Dhaka
President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday stressed the need for balanced development of all regions of the country.

Inaugurating the conference of the Greater Mymensingh Coordination Council at National Museum Auditorium in the city the President also emphasised on distribution of wealth from national development fund on the basis of population.

He observed that there was no way for strengthening the foundation of economic development, preservation of solidarity and social discipline of the country.

Presided over by Khondoker Asaduzzaman, MP, and Adviser to the Prime Minister on Establishment and Freedom Fighters Affairs, the function was also addressed by State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharraf, economist Dr Atiar Rahman and Secretary of the Parishad Rashedul Hasan Shelly.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed welcomed the initiative taken by the Parishad to plot development strategy for the greater Mymensingh region and said he considered the proposals for setting up of Nazrul University, development of roads connecting the districts of the greater Mymensingh with Dhaka and Sylhet through the Bangabandhu Bridge, setting up of

fishery-based industries in the haor area as logical proposition.

At the same time, the President felt the urgency of implementing plans for protecting Jamalpur, Tangail, Sherpur and Mymensingh from the erosion of Brahmaputra and Jamuna rivers.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed said despite important and bold contributions made by greater Mymensingh area in the national economy, culture and politics, the region with a population of about two crore could not attain the desired and deserved development. Greater Mymensingh can rather be described as ignored region, he said, adding, the literacy rate of the region is 30 per cent against national rate of 62 per cent.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed described the declaration of Mymensingh as education region and Tangail as cultural region by the government as a praiseworthy step towards creating congenial atmosphere in the country. But, he said, it is a reality that the students are losing their interest in the extra-curricular activities in the present teaching system.

He said, students instead of healthy cultural competitions are locked in the unhealthy race for gaining political and financial strength and domination. As a result, he observed, the prospect of flourishing human qualities is being

hampered and the society is suffering from erosion of social and moral values.

The President said such a situation is not desired. We all should work together to free the campuses from terrorism for establishing congenial atmosphere there.

Speaking on the occasion, State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharraf thanked the Parishad for drawing a development strategy for greater Mymensingh area and said it would benefit the policymaker. He said the people of Mymensingh are lucky to get the leadership of President Shahabuddin and hoped he would leave his mark in the development pursuit of the region.

In his presidential speech, Khondoker Asaduzzaman strongly felt the need for special attention for development of greater Mymensingh region. He said that constitution of the country outlined such attention for taking all the regions of the country on the same plank of development level.

Earlier, economist Atiar Rahman presented a development strategy for greater Mymensingh regions for the consideration of the government.

The conference was rounded off with a cultural programme.

Police raid book shops in N'ganj: 4 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Narayanganj thana police arrested four persons and recovered pirated copies of novel 'Mrimmoye' by popular novelist Hamayun Ahmed.

According to sources, 'Anyaprakash,' the publisher of 'Mrimmoye' informed Narayanganj thana that some book stalls are selling pirated copies of the novel. Then police alongwith the representative of 'Anyaprakash' raided three book shops 'Sahityamala' 'Boi Biponi' at DIT Market and 'New Bidyasagar' at Chashara.

They recovered 91 copies from Sahityamala, two copies from Boi Biponi, and arrested Abdul Aziz, (45) and Khokan 22, owner and an employee of 'Sahityamala,' Riaz 28, owner of 'Boi Biponi', Swapan Kumar, 31, owner of New Bidyasagar.

A case was filed with N'ganj thana in this connection.

Election

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June. But the opposition leader demanded election by May. She did not accept my proposal."

Hasina further said even the opposition leader termed "unconstitutional" the President's advice to sit with the government and find a mutually convenient date for election. Now the election would be held as per constitutional provision, she added.

SQ Chowdhury

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Shahidul Islam reported that SQ Chowdhury held a four-hour 'secret' meeting with his supporters at a farm house at Rangunia on Friday regarding formation of the new party.

Meanwhile, BNP leaders and activists at Rangunia and Raozan upazilas brought out several processions and held rallies on Friday, celebrating expulsion of SQ Chowdhury from the party.

The BNP activists were seen chanting slogans against CPowdhury and distributing sweets among people.

A huge rally was held at Ichhakhalai under Rangunia upazila on Friday with former BNP lawmaker Nurul Alam, an arch rival of Chowdhury, in the chair. Speakers at the rally questioned the role of Chowdhury and his family during Independence War and demanded his trial as a war criminal

Warrant for arrest of Benazir

AFP, Islamabad

A Pakistani court Friday issued "perpetual arrest warrants" against former prime minister Benazir Bhutto for failing to appear to answer corruption charges.

Accountability court Judge Rustam Ali Malik said Benazir had failed to respond to the court's earlier notices, the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan said.

Benazir has been charged with misusing powers to acquire illegal wealth and owning undeclared assets in a 1998 case registered during the deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif's government.

The judge had earlier issued six warrants against Benazir which were displayed at all public places and on

her residences in the country, it said.

The court has fixed May 21 for next hearing.

Benazir and her husband Asif Ali Zardari last month won their appeals against their 1999 corruption conviction and the Supreme Court has ordered a retrial.

Benazir went into self-exile in London shortly before her conviction while Zardari has been in prison since Benazir's government was dismissed in 1996.

Benazir, who became the first female prime minister of a Muslim country in 1988, has been twice elected and twice dismissed by successive presidents for misuse and corruption.

Fertiliser factories

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320 crore of the total expenditure.

The gas-fired factory will largely use local raw materials but import rock phosphate, a key-element for DAP, from Morocco.

Construction of the DAP-2, having the same capacity as of DAP-1, will begin at Rangadia by the year-end. Japan has already expressed willingness to give assistance for it.

Sources in the industries ministry said the government has a plan to gradually convert Rangadia an exclusive fertilizer production zone.

The third factory with a capacity of half a million tones of granular urea will be set up at the western end of Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge. The government signed a memorandum of understanding with China few months back for construction of the factory.

Urea is heavily subsidised by the government. With rise of gas price in September last year, the subsidy of around Tk. 100 crore on urea was doubled to give price support to farmers.

Application of fertiliser by farmers in the country is heavily urea-biased. To reduce the pressure on urea, the government first imported 50,000 tonnes of DAP in 1997-98.

Though part of the first consignment was carried over to the following financial year (1998-99), DAP became popular among farmers from that year. Import of 1,50,000

tonnes of DAP by the private sector in the last financial year came as a relief to the government, which was concerned about production shortfall of urea in fiscal 1999-2000.

Demand for urea increased with the increase in food production.

Political leaders join call for protection of natural resources

BSS, Dhaka
National Committee for Protection of Oil and Gas Resources in National Interest yesterday exchanged views with the leaders of different progressive democratic political parties at the CPB office.

Presided over by CPB President Monjurul Ahsan Khan, the review meeting was attended by Mujahidul Islam Selim, Nirmal Sen, Bimal Biswas, Azizul Islam Khan, Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah, Dr Golam Mohiuddin, Siddikur Rahman and Bazlur Rashid Firoz.

The leaders called for protecting the oil and gas resources from the imperialist donors who are out to exploit the weak countries of the third world.

They also demanded of the government to cancel contact on block no 9 contract not to enter into agreement on gas block no 11.

Unknown disease claims 12, attacks 100 in Meherpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

At least 12 people died of unknown disease during the last 15 days at village Chandpur under Sadar upazila in Meherpur district.

The disease is now being turned as 'Japanese Encephalitis.' About 100 people have been attacked by the disease and fighting for life in different hospitals and clinics.

Hundreds of people have left their houses out of panic. The disease caused by mosquitoes affects patient's brain giving no little scope for treatment. Meherpur civil surgeon said yesterday.

A medical team led by Director of IEDCR reached Meherpur yesterday. Another medical team from Khulna Medical College has gone there to make an on-the-spot investigation.