

Punish those trying to protect killers of Bangabandhu: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the people to punish those who are trying to save the killers of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"The trial of the killers has been held, the killers will be executed. But a vested group of people is trying to save the killers," she said urging the people to try those who are trying to protect the killers.

Addressing the inaugural function of Sheikh Fazlunnissa Women Technical Training Centre at Mirpur, she said for a long time the trial of the killers was not held. Rather they were awarded in various ways for the killings, she said.

Hasina said General Zia awarded the killers by giving them jobs abroad, General Ershad rehabilitated them in the society and former prime minister Khaleda Zia made a killer a Member of Parliament.

She said when the present government initiated the trial of the killers removing all obstacles, the anti-liberation forces started issuing threats to unseat the government and tried their best to save the killers.

Flag meet held BDR, BSF to avoid provocation to maintain peace at frontiers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A sector commander level flag meeting between BDR and BSF yesterday decided to avoid provocation to maintain peace at frontiers.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Border Security Force (BSF) held the meeting at Sona Masjid point under Chapainawabganj district yesterday.

BDR sources said the meeting lasted nearly five hours discussed the overall border situation. The two sides agreed to maintain peace in frontier areas. The two sides also agreed to avoid provocation to maintain peace in the frontiers. The meeting also took some decisions in this regard.

This was the first sector commander level flag meeting in the region after the Roumari incident in Kurigram.

BDR sector commander Col Ahmed Ullah Iman Khan led the home side along with the commanding officers of Chapainawabganj and Naogaon while DIG of BSF, Malda sector MS Bist along with three commandants and two staff officers led the Indian side.

Visa Accord with Delhi

FROM PAGE 1 revised agreement also permits flexibility in case of route changing and facilities for transit and double entry visa.

This agreement replaces the earlier one, which came into effect on September 1, 1972. It also has a provision for review of these new arrangements after five years or earlier if required.

The upgrading of visa facilities reflects the mutual desire of the two governments to facilitate people-to-people contacts, which constitute an

Tisha frees herself

FROM PAGE 1 the door, the abductor put a piece of cloth with chloroform on her nose, they said.

Later, a complaint was lodged with Uttara thana and police arrested one person named Zahid from a ground floor flat of the same building. Following interrogation of Zahid, his wife and four others were also arrested for their alleged involvement in the incident, police said.

Abdul Hamid, Second Officer at Uttara police station, said they are yet to ascertain what had actually happened. The arrested are being interrogated to know the fact, he added.

Landmark UN treaty

FROM PAGE 1 A senior US official said Tuesday in Washington that Bush hoped to be able to present the new US proposals on climate change to European leaders when he meets them at an EU summit in the western Swedish city of Gothenburg next month.

"We are concerned with global climate change and we are obviously going to take steps to ensure that we address these issues," Whitman said.

"The president wants to be engaged. He feels that we have a domestic responsibility to be involved in this as well as an international responsibility."

Canadian Environment Minister David Anderson meanwhile called the signing of the POP treaty "very gratifying."

"We have so many countries who have signed, and so quickly," said Anderson who, took the

Indira-Mujib accord

FROM PAGE 1 areas, increasing the manpower of border guards, improving their logistic support and providing them with modern equipment.

Ruling party members in the meeting criticised the opposition members for their absence from yesterday's meeting. "More effective suggestions could have come if the opposition members played their due role for development of our border guards," Sayedul Haq told The Daily Star last night.

BDR officials informed the committee that they had at least 216 flag meetings with their Indian counterparts at different levels since the recent border tension broke out.

"Now the border situation is normal," the BDR DG told the meeting.

Mamun

FROM PAGE 1 accomplices stormed into daily Purbokone office on the night of April 18 and assaulted its Chief Sub-Editor and Reading Section In-charge.

Iskander Ali filed a case against Mamun under the Public Safety Act (PSA) with Panchlaish thana on April 20.

The incident triggered protest in the port city. Journalists here condemned the incident and launched an agitation programme that forced the ward commissioner to surrender before the CMM's Court.

The leaders hoped that a bill would be passed to form a special tribunal in the coming parliamentary session.

Leaders of the Jote in a memorandum to the prime minister on April 28 explained why a special tribunal is needed to punish the culprits. However, they could not meet and submit a memorandum to President Shahabuddin Ahmed in this regard, they said.

The leaders said the SSJ, a leading cultural platform, is always vocal against every terrorist attack. The government has to take the responsibility of Ramna incident, they affirmed.

Says SSJ President Ramendu Majumder: "We want exemplary punishment to the culprits, who made the bomb attack during the cultural programme of Chhayanaut." He also added that it is clear to the people who masterminded the attack.

To realise the demand for a special tribunal, the Jote will organise a meeting of representatives at the TSC of Dhaka University on May 28.

Asaduzzaman Noor, Laila Hassan, Golam Mostafa and Mohammad Jahangir, among others, were present at the conference.

30pc DA

FROM PAGE 12 and a five-point demand of the employees.

The demands include a separate pay commission for government employees and class two status for headmasters of primary schools.

Speakers at the rally urged the government to accept their demands before the parliament's coming session.

They warned that they would go for a tougher movement if the teachers and employees are harassed or arrested during the programmes. Their next course of action would be announced after the sit-in, they said.

Chaired by BPTA chief Abdul Kalam Azad, the rally bitterly criticised the government for 'promoting top officials' keeping in view the coming general election.

The speakers threatened to foil any political move to 'use the public servants' for political gains and said primary school teachers and class three and class four employees are the 'main force' in conducting polls.

KCC Mayor

FROM PAGE 12 verifying their background and judging experience, the FIR stated.

The FIR further stated that none of seven recruited persons had experience of five and three years as wanted in the Appointment Notice.

One of the seven persons was given appointment as freedom fighter. But according to his birth certificate he was only nine years of age during the war of liberation as learnt from the FIR lodged by DAB with official permission from Prime Minister's Secretariat.

With this, total number of cases filed by the Bureau of Anti-corruption against KCC Mayor rises to three.

The Mayor could not be contacted for his reaction, but a spokesman of his office termed the DAB cases as politically motivated.

Polarisation of terrorists ahead of next polls

FROM PAGE 1 Didarul Alam, president of the Raozan upazila unit of BCL and a close aide to Tinku, was gunned down. A murder case was lodged with Karim as the prime accused. Meanwhile, Tinku publicly held Karim's men responsible for the killing.

Incidentally, the terrorist group loyal to Karim is the strongest in Raozan and Rangunia. The Rangunia meeting was actually held to unify cadres of SQ Chowdhury and Shibir's Sajjad. At the meeting, participated by 39 terrorists, it was decided that Sajjad would be the leader of the unified group.

However, Nazim, a senior cadre loyal to SQ Chowdhury, could not accept the decision. He was killed



PHOTO: STAR
BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan addressing a meeting of the four-party Opposition Alliance at Muktangan in the city yesterday.

Venezuela: Technical assistance

FROM PAGE 1

He office, officials said.

The Venezuelan president promised to increase co-operation in oil and gas technology and increase import of jute and other products from the South Asian country.

He agreed to resume technical assistance in energy sector that was cut down a decade ago and in information technology during the talks that lasted one and a half hours.

Chavez agreed to resume training programme for the Petro Bangla officials on March 10, 1999 with the cabinet secretary in the chair had decided that the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Establishment would finalise the recruitment rules, proposed by the EC, within one month.

"But the process was stalled due to bureaucratic tangles in the Ministry of Establishment," said a senior EC official.

As a result, a total of 1,461 posts in 83 district and 487 upazila level election offices have been lying vacant since the commission had planned its restructuring.

Indian ministers

FROM PAGE 12

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Border Security Force (BSF) to look after a common border.

The guidelines, the report said, envisaged the establishment of joint check posts to help the nationals of both countries to use main channel of the river wherever the boundary ran through a river.

The GOM underscored the need for implementation of the guidelines for setting up of joint check posts between the BSF and BDR and said if necessary, the matter should be given definite shape through diplomatic efforts.

The GOM report made various suggestions with regard to reforming the national security system of India which was considered by the cabinet committee on security.

The GOM underscored the need for implementation of the guidelines for setting up of joint check posts between the BSF and BDR and said if necessary, the matter should be given definite shape through diplomatic efforts.

The GOM report made various suggestions with regard to reforming the national security system of India which was considered by the cabinet committee on security.

On receipt of information, police rushed to the spot. Sensing police presence, the snatchers opened fire. An unidentified mugger was killed on the spot during exchange of fire.

Cultivation of hybrid rice

FROM PAGE 1

from India and marketed those in the brand names of Aalok, Loknath and Amarshi-1. Another variety imported from China was marketed as Sonarbangla-1.

Alongside marketing the imported consignments, these companies tried to produce those seeds locally, using the 'parent lines'. None of them will now be able to continue this without 'parent lines', sources in the companies said.

Agriculturist Mujibur Rahman, Director of Malika Seed Company, said, "We are capable of producing high breed rice seeds, if provided with parent line. Our government will have to pursue the exporting countries to supply us the parent lines or allow us to import seeds for three-four years more".

Meanwhile, two hybrid rice varieties developed by the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) are awaiting approval of the National Seed Board for release at

farmers' level.

Field trial of homegrown hybrid varieties showed yield potential of eight to 11 tonnes of rice per hectare against seven tons from BRRI-developed high yielding varieties (HYV).

Among the four imported varieties, Sonarbangla-1 yielded eight tonnes per hectare on an average.

Official sources said the government is now assessing the situation in the light of success in rice production from use of hybrid seeds in the last two IRRI-Boro seasons.

National Seed Board is likely to hold a meeting soon to decide the issue, they said.

Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Dr MA Hamid Miah, expects hybrid rice seeds will cover one million hectares of land or one fourth of total Boro growing area in the country by 2010.

Malika Seed Company sold 225 tonnes of Sonarbangla-1 seeds in the current Boro season, which

covered 15,000 hectares of land in 23 districts. Hybrid rice seeds are now under trial production in the company's fields in Jamalpur, Sherpur and Jessore.

Former Director (Research) of BRRI, Dr Md Nasiruddin, told The Daily Star that the government should allow import of hybrid rice seeds for some time more as any homegrown variety is yet to be released.

MA Aziz Miah, former chief rice breeder of BRRI, said local companies should continue their research and trial and attain excellence before going for commercial production of hybrid rice seeds.

Among others, Mehbubul Haq Khandaker and Ikrar Majeen spoke at the press briefing.

Khaleda addresses Kishoreganj rally today

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will visit Kishoreganj district today.

She will address a public meeting at Muktijoddha College madrasa in Tarail upazila at 3 pm, said a press release.

up trouble at Raozan and Rangunia areas.

"Before I joined politics in 1996, Raozan used to be called the valley of death. Some 170 students and youths were killed in 21 years. Since December 1996, there has not been any significant killing. In fact, 70 identified terrorists decided to get back to normal life."

"However, in recent times, a certain quarter with the blessing of SQ Chowdhury has become active to create trouble in Raozan and Rangunia. Several NDP cadres, recently released from jail, have resumed terrorist activities."

SQ Chowdhury could not be contacted for comments. He is presently out of the country.

Venezuela to replicate Grameen model of micro-credit: Chavez

BSA, Dhaka

Visiting Venezuelan President Hugo Rafael Chavez-Friaz yesterday said most Latin American countries are encountering hazards like terrorism, drug trafficking and violence due to omnipresence of poverty.

"The inappropriate growth of capitalism in Latin America and Caribbean islands have created huge gap between the rich and the poor in those societies," President Chavez said, adding that a new socio-economic model of peaceful revolution is badly needed to address the burning issues.

The Venezuelan President was addressing an opinion sharing meeting at Grameen Bank headquarters at Mirpur here yesterday afternoon. Founder of Grameen Bank Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus, Kalid Shams of Grameen Bank, Venezuelan Minister for Planning and Development Prof Jorge Giordani, Venezuelan Minister for External Relations Luis Alfonso Davila, Minister for Science and Technology Dr Carlos Genatios, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Venezuelan ambassador Walter Marquez, among others, attended the meeting.

President Chavez was addressing an opinion sharing meeting at Grameen Bank headquarters at Mirpur here yesterday afternoon. Founder of Grameen Bank Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus, Kalid Shams of Grameen Bank, Venezuelan Minister for Planning and Development Prof Jorge Giordani, Venezuelan Minister for External Relations Luis Alfonso Davila, Minister for Science and Technology Dr Carlos Genatios, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Venezuelan ambassador Walter Marquez, among others, attended the meeting.

President Chavez said peaceful

residence in socio-economic sectors in Latin America as well as other parts of the world are needed and Grameen model of micro-credit could be highly useful.

"We have strong eagerness for replication of Grameen Bank model and inviting Professor Yunus to visit Venezuela to share some of his remarkable experiences in this field," the visiting President said.

Describing Venezuelan efforts to promote social justice and democracy, he said the country has already passed necessary laws and regulations to run micro-credit systems.

He said the Venezuelan government would encourage micro-

enterprises to bridge existing great gap between the affluent and less privileged section of the country.

Professor Yunus thanked the Venezuelan President and his entourage for visiting Grameen Bank headquarters. He said Grameen Bank is promoting micro-credit along with appropriate use of cellular communication and information technology (IT) to empower the rural women and marginal poor.

We are competing in the free market. But the benefits are reaching to the poor people across the country who are real stakeholders of this special bank, he said.

Professor Yunus said that Grameen Bank most of the time discourages training because sometimes in the name of training, the natural talents of the people are curbed. He said that in next couple of months Grameen Bank would introduce WAP (wireless application protocol) technology and most cellular phone users would have access to the Internet via WAP.

Dr Yunus