

TV channels

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Managing Director of ETV Simon Dring said they had decided not to entertain the AL request. "Ekushey Television will not be broadcasting the address to the nation planned by the honourable Leader of the Opposition, Sheikh Hasina, on January 26," he told this news agency yesterday.

"We understand that normal broadcast practice for a national television network would be to only carry such an address given by the head of state or government. This has been our practice in the past and will be so in the future. There has been no precedence for us to do otherwise and we have received no such requests before."

Nayem Nizam of ATN said they would only air such programme if other private channels agreed to do so. He, however, said they would decide on the issue today.

Authorities of Channel i, however, could not be reached for their comment on the issue.

Sources in the private TV channels said they were under "tremendous pressure", not to telecast Hasina's speech as "address to the nation".

When contacted, Political Secretary to the Awami League chief Saber Hossain Chowdhury said, "We are proceeding with arrangements for recording of the speech and will address the issue of broadcast subsequently."

Lanka to issue visas on arrival for SAARC tourists

XINHUA, Colombo

Sri Lanka will issue visa on arrival for tourists from countries of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) under a new tourism programme launched by the government yesterday, the official Daily News said.

Tourism Minister Gamini Lokuge said on Tuesday that tourists from India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Maldives will no longer have to obtain prior visas under the new arrangement which will entitle them to obtain a visa for one month on arrival.

However, if tourists require for a longer period of time applications must be made to the Department of Immigration and Emigration.

This is the first time that the landing endorsement procedure has been extended to countries of the SAARC region although 72 countries in Europe, Americas and Asia already enjoy this facility.

In its bid to promote tourism in the war-torn country, the government has allocated a sum of 440 million rupees (around 4.73 million US dollars) to revamp and sustain the industry through its current impasse and meet the target of 400,000 tourist arrivals for this year.

BCL activist shot dead in Fatikchhari

UNB, Ctg

A pro-Awami League Chhatra League activist was shot dead by unidentified assailants at Aman Bazar in Fatikchhari yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the assailants called Mintu Hossain, 24 out of his house at Dakkhin Thurb near the bazar and sprayed bullets on him at about 5 pm. He died on the spot.

Police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with local police.

Additional police were deployed in the area following the killing.

JCD's tit-for-tat

FROM PAGE 1  
JCD began attacks on BCL rivals, injuring at least 40 activists including some top central leaders.

Dhaka University, the worst affected due to JCD-BCL conflicts in the past, is likely to face another spate of session jam as BCL called a two-day strike on the campus from yesterday, protesting the attack.

Over 20 people were killed and more than 1000 injured in incidents of violence and the university remained closed for several hundred days since 1991. However, between July 1997 and July 2001, there were fewer incidents of conflict between JCD and BCL as the latter had 'totally eliminated' JCD from the campus.

From July 2001, the situation on DU campus started getting destabilised. As the caretaker government returned there, JCD activists returned there. When JCD activists returned there, as the caretaker government took over, JCD tried to establish its supremacy and enforced a non-stop strike. The country's largest educational institution remained closed for most of the period during the tenure of the caretaker government due to strike called by JCD. The strikes caused at least six months' session jam.

Sources on the campus said they see no hope of any understanding between JCD and BCL for peaceful coexistence at DU. "This is just the beginning of an end of BCL on the Dhaka University campus," said a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra Union. "JCD will repeat what BCL did to it."

White paper: 40 cases of graft

FROM PAGE 1

also in the mention.  
Prepared by a cell of four consultants, the 793-page paper was published in two volumes in the first phase and submitted to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the afternoon of yesterday, two days before the end of the BNP-led coalition government's 100-day programmes.

Publication of a white paper on 'corruption' during the Awami League regime was one of the major election pledges of BNP-led four party alliance. Also, it was a crucial part of the first 100-day agenda of the coalition government.

"On the basis of the information discussed in the white paper it appears that huge irregularities, graft and other illegal activities took place at the high level of the government during the last few years," said Haris Chowdhury, political secretary of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, at a press conference at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

"In some cases, the head of the government (former prime minister Sheikh Hasina) herself was involved in illegal activities," said Chowdhury.

"The Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC) has already filed 18 to 20 corruption cases and the rest are in the process," said Haris Chowdhury said, adding that the 40 cases were found to be true on the basis of government documents and information provided by officials concerned.

"This white paper is not an outcome of political vendetta... rather it is a warning for the future", he said.

"It is clear that corruption takes place beyond people's eyes and is not recorded in files and documents. Corrupt persons take proceeds from large financial transactions to foreign banks abroad," Haris said.

"(Therefore) it is specially required to engage an international investigation organisation to look into these allegations," he added, "However such investigation is very expensive and might not be possible for countries like Bangladesh to undertake."

Replying to a question, Chowdhury said, "If necessary, we will go for an international investigation into the incidents."

The white paper, however, does not include the much talked-about 'irregularities' in the purchase of frigate. Speaking on the issue, Haris Chowdhury said the frigate purchase was a massive affair and that the incident would be included in the next phase of white paper to be released soon.

When asked whether the people named in the white paper for their alleged graft and irregularities would face action, Chowdhury said, "There is no direct relation between publication of the white paper and (possible) punishment of the people found guilty here. The Bureau of Anti-corruption and other agencies concerned will look into that aspect."

The white paper would not influence the cases filed so far with the BAC, rather it would help the investigators, he said and claimed that activities of BAC is not controlled by the government.

The political secretary of the prime minister denied the allegation that efforts are on to withdraw the graft cases against BNP leaders filed during the AL regime.

"There is no question of withdrawal of such cases; rather steps would be taken to ensure transparency at the BAC"

Chief consultant of the white paper cell M Monir-uz-Zaman, a former secretary, and State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar were also present at the press confer-

ence. The government paid Tk 3 lakh to the members of the white paper cell as consultancy fee.

Haris Chowdhury also said all the projects mentioned in the white paper will not be suspended as a lot of investments has already put in some of these big schemes.

Suppliers' credit misuse

The white paper identified large-scale 'misuse' of suppliers' credit schemes by the AL government in various projects. Till June 30 1998, the country had swallowed projects under suppliers' credit worth \$240 million with an annual repayment rate of \$25 million. Since 1996-97, the number of projects under suppliers' credit totalled over \$1 billion till 2000. Tugboat It has been alleged that the tender documents for the purchase of a Tk 22.34 crore high powered tugboat for the Chittagong Port Authority were illegally doctored to favour a son of a former Awami League lawmaker. Rajuk plot allocation It was alleged that the AL government illegally allocated different plots at Gulshan, Banani and Uttara areas to party members, depriving legitimate applicants. Former minister for housing Mosharrif Hossain was responsible for such irregularities, the paper said. Govt property sell-off The Bureau of Anti-corruption has already filed a case accusing former works minister Mohammad Nasim of 'irregularities' in selling government property under the public works ministry. It has been alleged that he along with 20 others caused a loss of Tk 4.25 crore to the country by selling government property. Jhilmil Satellite Town Tender documents were doctored in the Jhilmil Satellite Town project to favour CWHEC-SAHCO JV, represented by Syed Abul Hossain, who also was a state minister for some time, the paper said. As a result of e graft, the government had to spend Tk 12508.37 for land development instead of a projected Tk 9372.73 crore.

Hotel construction

Allegations of irregularities were brought in the allocation and exchange of a total of 2.13 acres of lands at 36 Mymensingh Road, 31 Minto Road and 1 Shahbag Road to International Holdings Ltd for building hotel. Mohammad Nasim and Mosharrif Hossain have been implicated in the irregularities.

Share Scam

Former finance minister SAMS Kibria has been accused of failing to check the 1996 share market scam.

Economic census

Allegation of graft has been brought in undertaking the economic census, 2000. Former state minister for planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and the then secretary of statistical division have been implicated in corruption in printing of questionnaires for the census, which caused a loss of Tk 1.38 crore.

Population census

Former state minister for planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, the then secretary of statistical division and some other officials have been implicated in graft in printing questionnaires for the population census, 2001. In the same project, it has been alleged that the accused were involved in corruption in purchase of computers at higher prices, printing additional questionnaires, and purchase of motor cars.

Corruption in the Bureau of Statistics

Former state minister for planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir has been accused of corruption in the 'Umbrella' project for population and housing census, 2001, purchase of oil paints for the Statistics Building project, appointment of a contractor for cleaning of Statistics Building at an annual cost of Tk 5.6 lakh, wastage of money in the national data bank project and unsolicited purchase of computers for strengthening agriculture information.

Installation of 2.16 lakh telephone lines

It was alleged that the then AL government signed a US\$ 223 million agreement with a Chinese company, side-stepping the Planning Commission and Economic Relations Division (ERD) for installation of 2.16 lakh telephone lines in districts. During his visit to China, former telecomunication minister Mohammad Nasim had directed the authorities con-

Textbooks

The government brought serious allegations against the AL government in printing and distribution of textbooks. The allegations include 'brainwashing' of students by printing and distributing textbooks with politically biased contents and irregularities in purchase and sale of books worth several crores of taka to the benefit of certain quarters. Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her husband and a number of AL ministers and leaders were accused in the irregularities.

Volvo bus

Former communications minister Anwar Hossain Monju has been accused of irregularities and corruption in the purchase of 50 Volvo buses for BRTC under Swiss soft loans.

Diesel generator for Dhaka WASA

While Sweden traditionally provides Bangladesh grants for purchases in different development projects, the AL government deliberately changed its policy and sought Swedish loan for purchase of diesel generator in 1997. Former finance minister SAMS Kibria, former LGRD minister Zillur

Double murder 6 get life term in Mymensingh

UNB, Mymensingh

A court here yesterday sentenced seven people to different terms of rigorous imprisonment in a double murder case.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge awarded six people -- Moshed, Biplob, Rustom, Mustafa (absconding), Mizanur Rahman and Habibur Rahman life term imprisonment.

They were also fined with Tk 5,000 each, in default to suffer another six months RI.

Another accused Abu Hanifa was sentenced to six months RI with a fine of Tk 500, in default, to suffer 15 days more RI while Abdur Rashid and Saidur Rahman were acquitted.

According to the prosecution story, the convicts killed Mozammel Huq and Khairul Islam while fishing in a pond at village Duttanapara in Gafargaon upazila on June 24, 1994.

Rahman and former WASA managing director Dr Khandker Azharul Islam have been accused of corruption in this Tk 13.65 crore purchase.

Baitul Mokarram Minaret

In building the minaret of Baitul Mokarram mosque in 1999, former director general of the Islamic Foundation Moulana Abdul Awal, state minister for religious affairs Moulana Nurul Islam and former state minister for planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir have been accused of corruption and misuse of power, which caused monetary loss to the Foundation.

Documentary on Bangabandhu bridge

The White paper alleged that the government wasted Tk 19.62 lakh by making a video documentary on the Bangabandhu Bridge as it 'did not reflect' the true history of bridge construction, and only served the AL's political purpose.

Mig Purchase

Sheikh Hasina along with some top defence officials have been accused of scam in the purchase of Mig-29s. It has been alleged that the purchase caused the state a loss of Tk 700 crore since there was no real need for these eight aircraft. The anti-corruption bureau has already filed a case in this regard.

PSI agency appointment

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina has been accused of illegal issuance of an order to appoint a pre-shipment inspection agency and an auditor to favour certain quarters.

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Try all graft cases

FROM PAGE 1  
name of corruption, and transparency in the administration by closing down of all 'informal centres of power'. "Government should not be run from Hawa Bhavan", he said.

The AL list includes charges against the then prime minister Khaleda Zia for illegal grabbing of state power, corruption in recruitment of police personnel and in Airbus purchase, Khaleda's son Tareq Rahman for taking loans illegally for purchase of Koko vessels and in the name of Taj Distillery, Rahman Shippers and Unixet Apparels, her brother Sayeed Iskandar for taking loan illegally for Dandy Dying, the then home minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury for corruption in police recruitment, finance minister M Saifur Rahman for corruption in Airbus purchase, food minister Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali for misappropriation of money, works minister Rafiqul Islam Mia for allocating RAJUK plot for himself and financial gains by selling commercial plot as industrial plot, jute minister SM Hannan Shah for corruption in construction of a new building at Adamjee Court and in selling Messers Gajraj Pannalal property, state minister for civil aviation and tourism Abdul Mannan for corruption in Airbus purchase, a state minister for science and technology Lutfar Rahman Khan for corruption in purchase of corrugated iron sheets and the then DCC Mayor Mirza Abbas for allocation of 17 plots among family members.

Besides, AL leaders said, there were allegations that the then environment and forest minister

cerned to sign the contract under suppliers' credit arrangement.

Personal handy phones

The AL government had initiated a joint venture with the Bangladesh Broadcasting Telephone and Technology (BTT) to install some two lakh personal handy phones in Dhaka and its adjoining areas. The contract was awarded without any open bidding, the white paper alleged.

Ghorashal thermal power plant

Alleged graft and abuse of power in modernisation and rehabilitation of unit-1 and 2 of the Ghorashal thermal power plant were reported in the paper. Former finance minister, state minister for power and mineral resources and some high officials in the finance ministry and the power division were accused of abuse of power, irregularities and unethical administrative influence in the deal.

Besides, the white paper also alleged corruption in some other power projects in Bhola, Haripur, Khulna, Siddirganj and Meghna Ghat.

Import of food grain

In absence of proper monitoring by the food ministry in food import in 1998-99, the government incurred over Tk 49 crore in loss, the paper alleged. Irregularities in domestic food procurement during 1996-2001 also cost the government Tk 406.1 crore, it said.

Besides, the White paper alleged corruption in unloading of food at port, in food transportation and recruitment of the ministry.

Fertiliser factory

It was alleged under the directions of former industries minister Toifal Ahmed, the government had decided to set up two di-aminium phosphate (DAP) factories with 800 MT capacity each instead of one DAP factory of 1200MT capacity without any feasibility study.

Maydhopara hardrock project

The paper alleged that the project contract for the Maddyhopara Hardrock Mining Project was violated as the contractors failed to complete the task within the stipulated time. Moreover, the bill for fifth instalment was paid despite low quality work.

Dredger

In the purchase of a dredger for the Water Development Board, the government incurred a loss of Tk 2 crore because of alleged corruption, the White paper said. About Tk 2 crore financial benefits were provided to M/S IHC Holland by rejecting a lower rate offered by M/S Dumen for the project, it said. It appears that the minister concerned, the cabinet purchase committee and the former prime minister did not discharge their responsibilities in bargaining for the dredger, it said.

Besides, the white paper alleged corrupt practices in reemployment of 1389 staff at the water development board and other financial irregularities by the ministry.

Submarine cable

The caretaker government had suspended the Bangladesh-Singapore submarine cable project as it was an unsolicited one. The White paper accused Managing Director of Gasmin Company Mahbubur Rahman, son of former minister Mosharrif Hossain and a close aide of Sheikh Hasina's son, then finance minister SAMS Kibria and former telecom minister Mohammad Nasim of pushing the Tk 778 crore project through.



President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury addresses the inauguration of the Cancer Detection Centre of the proposed Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital at Mirpur yesterday.

US-led coalition

FROM PAGE 12  
Pakistan went to war with India.

Both countries have deployed hundreds of thousands of troops along their common border since a Dec. 13 suicide attack on India's parliament that India blames on Pakistan-based Islamic militants battling Indian rule in part of disputed Kashmir.

The two nuclear armed powers have fought two wars over Kashmir since gaining independence in 1947. Their standoff continues despite a Pakistani ban on radical groups based in Pakistan and active in the Indian part of Kashmir, and visit last week to both New Delhi and Islamabad by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Pakistan denies any involvement in Kashmir military. A new attack Tuesday, on the U.S. cultural center in the southern Indian of Calcutta, left 4 Indians dead, 20 wounded, India blaming Pakistan and tensions high.

Second ODI

FROM PAGE 1  
from the capital.

Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Ekushey Television (ETV) will telecast the match live while Bangladesh Betar will also provide ball-by-ball commentary.

Pakistan will be gunning to clinch the three-match Coca-Cola one-day series after their 49-run victory in Chittagong on Tuesday.

TEAMS

Bangladesh (from): Khaled Mashud, Javed Omar, Mehrab Hossain, Al-Shahriar, Tushar Imran, Sanwar Hossain, Khaled Mahmud, Enamul Hoque, Mohammad Sharif, Monjurul Islam, Tareq Aziz Khan, Aminul Islam, Habibul Bashar and Fahim Muntasir.

Pakistan (from): Waqar Younis, Naved Latif, Shahid Afridi, Younis Khan, Inzamamul Haq, Yusuf Youhana, Abdur Razzak, Azhar Mahmood, Rashid Latif, Shoab Akhtar, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mohammad Sami, Taufeeq Umar, Shadab Kabir and Shoab Malik.

Baseless

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reprehensible ... such unfounded allegations would only detract efforts aimed at successfully nabbing the perpetrators of the Kolkata incident," Shamsheer told Indian High Commissioner ML Tripathi who was summoned to the Foreign Office soon after the report of arrest yesterday afternoon.

A report from Kolkata quoting police said five Bangladeshis and three Indian teachers of an Islamic school suspected for the attack were arrested Tuesday night from Bashirhat, a town close to India-Bangladesh border.

The Foreign Secretary informed Tripathi of Bangladesh's concern at attempts being made by a section of the Indian media to the effect that a branch of a terrorist outfit using Bangladesh territory and some Bangladeshis were involved in the incident.

Shamsheer also referred to a reported statement by Kolkata police chief and said that unverified allegations like this is not in keeping with the spirit of friendly ties between the two countries and should be avoided.

The Foreign Secretary categorically told the Indian High Commissioner that Bangladesh never and will not allow its territory to be used for any terrorist action against any country. Bangladesh has always condemned terrorism and through concrete actions at regional and international level opposed all forms of terrorism, said an official press release.

First Hajj flight

FROM PAGE 12  
Khaleda Zia said return bookings could be confirmed from Dhaka during their departure.

Khaleda later went on board the aircraft, talked to the pilgrims enquired about their welfare and exchanged pleasantries. She wished the pilgrims a safe journey.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharrif Hossain Shahjahan, PM's political secretaries and the Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh were present.

Graft case

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loss.

Court sources mentioned that the chief metropolitan magistrate's court has no jurisdiction to pass any order in a graft case which is at a stage of investigation. Moreover, the CMM's court did not pass any order on the issue on Tuesday, though reports was published in three national dailies.

Meanwhile, the staff of the CMM's court's anti corruption office expressed their surprise and resentment over the reports.

Hasina in Araihaazar

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describes it as a success of her 100-day agenda," the former prime minister told the meeting.

Questioning the spending of Tk 3,800 crore borrowed from banks in last three months, Hasina said this government must tell the people how it could spend such a huge amount.

Presided over by Araihaazar upazila Awami League president Emdadul Huq Bhuiyan, the meeting was also addressed by president member Abdus Samad Azad. Party leaders Abdul Mannan, ex-MP Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafulah, ex-MP SMAkram, and Narayanganj district AL president Prof Nazma Rahman were on the dais.

Castigating the government for what she said indiscriminate killing of her party workers and raping of minority women Hasina said, "Curse of Allah must fall on them and the days of torture must come to an end."

Referring to her five-year rule, the former prime minister said people could live in peace taking two meals a day as the country was made food-surplus by meeting the deficit of 40 lakh metric tons and

prices of essentials were stable.

Her government, she said, took action against terrorists whoever they may be without considering sons of ministers or chief whip. On the contrary, she said, this government harbours killers and rapists as it does not have affection for common people.

The Awami League president said that during her rule production of electricity increased to 4,000 megawatts from 1600mw, and load-shedding problem was solved and massive development done in communications and infrastructure sectors.

As Hasina was delivering her speech, the electricity supply was cut off, forcing her to cut short her speech and use a hand-held mike.

In his address Abdus Samad Azad cautioned Prime Minister Khaleda Zia about the consequences of playing with fire and said military regimes of Ayub, Menaem and Yahia Khan could not eliminate Awami League through repression.

He demanded fresh general election and said people would again unite to "bring down the autocratic government."

5 Bangladeshis held

FROM PAGE 1  
Moser said that normally about 100 people a day come to use the center's library, student advice service or commercial research facilities, and they are accustomed to thorough body and bag searches at the gate.

Hours after the shooting attack on the US office, the head of America's FBI said his agency will work with Indian investigators to prevent new terrorist attacks, and help Pakistani authorities fight terrorism.

However, FBI Director Robert S Mueller refused to immediately describe the attack on the American Center as a terrorist strike.

Mueller arrived in New Delhi Monday as part of a tour of South Asia and the Middle East. He met with interior minister, Lal Krishna Advani, Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh and other top security and intelligence officials.

Meanwhile, the Indian High Commissioner ML Tripathi said his government would share information with Bangladesh government after completion of investigation of the terrorist attack on US Cultural Centre in Kolkata.