Hasina urges people Resist torture, injustice

UNB, Dhaka

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the people to get ready to sacrifice for freeing the nation from its 'horrifying state'.

"I am ready for any sacrifice, and you will also have to be ready to make any sacrifice to save the nation from torture and injustice," she said addressing a function marking the birthday of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore Mela organised the function at the Bangabandhu Museum (Dhanmondi-32) square to celebrate the 83rd birthday of Bangabandhu and also sponsored countrywide essay and cultural competition for children.

The Awami League president had declared Bangabandhu's birthday as the children's day. The day was a national holiday during the AL's

New dolphin species found in Sundarbans

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A team of scientists from home and abroad has spotted for the first time a Dolphin species -- The Indo-Pacific humpbacked dolphin Sousa Chinensis-- in the Sundarbans.

They sighted the new species during an on going expedition in the world's largest mangrove forest, home to many exotic species including the famed Royal Bengal Tiger.

Alia Islam of the Nature Conservation Movement, a Bangladeshi scientist and a member of the expedition, first saw the Dolphins when the team boarding a tourist boat was surveying the western part of the Sundarbans on March



Dorsal fin, head and beak of an Indo-Pacific humpbacked dolphin - Sousa

This was disclosed by an official of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Bangladesh, Rashiduzzaman

He told this correspondent that when Alia Islam spotted the humpbacks, she shouted that the dolphins had white head, in contrast with the typical gray colour of shushuks (Ganges river dolphins--Platanista gangetica), the dolphins commonly found in Bangladesh rivers.

This made the expedition members curious and they stopped the boat to have a closer look. When the dolphins surfaced again, their SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Police intercept an Awami League procession at Paltan crossing in the city yesterday, protesting alleged government repression on the opposition.

Power theft, port flaw cost \$1,100 a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Power sector theft and mismanagement in the Chittagong port are robbing the country of between US\$600 and \$1,100 million a year, leading researchers and economists said at a seminar yesterday.

Besides, the country's GDP could have gained two to three per cent more every year if the issue of governance had been addressed.

The seminar on 'Bangladesh: Development Challenges and Opportunities' was organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) at the

IDB Bhaban in the city yesterday. KAS Murshid, research director of BIDS, made a presentation on 'Poverty Reduction: Strategic Considerations' at the seminar.

Painting a grim picture of the state of governance, he termed the

Hindu hardliners attack assembly in Orissa

2 die as police open fire in Gujarat

Two people were killed yesterday when security forces opened fired on a feuding mob in the Indian state of Gujarat, where communal riots claimed 700 lives less than a month ago, police said.

One person died and eight others were injured in the Madhupura area of Ahmedabad when police opened fired to control clashes between Hindus and Muslims early yesterday.

In another incident a man died after being shot by police in Baroda. Police also said Hindu mobs had attacked mosques in the town.

"One mosque was burnt yesterday (Friday) night, sub-inspector H.Y. Mirza said. Police said 40 people had been arrested in Ahmedabad and 25 in Baroda as a preventative mea-

Meanwhile, hundreds of activists from Hindu hardline groups vandalised the legislature building in the eastern Indian state of Orissa in protest at alleged remarks by lawmakers opposing the Ayodhya temple

Activists of the right-wing Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), or World Hindu Council which is spearheading the temple building movement, and another group, the Bajrang Dal, broke through police cordons and attacked the assembly in the state capital of Bhubaneshwar.

Officials from Bhubaneshwar said the activists also attacked the office of Orissa state Chief Minister Navin Patnaik to protest remarks purportedly made by his lawmakers against the VHP's plans to build a temple on the ruins of a 16th century mosque in Ayodhya.

The raiders, including a number of women, destroyed name-plates and smashed windowpanes and flower pots before they were beaten back by state legislators and their personal staff, the officials said.

The Press Trust of India news agency said the legislators, angry with the poor response of security men who were supposed to be guarding the assembly, also chased away senior police officials when they arrived with anti-riot personnel.

Alleged child trafficker shot dead, woman strangled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged child trafficker was shot dead by an Ansar and a young woman was strangulated by miscreants in the city on Friday night.

Gulshan police said the Ansar, while on duty with three policemen in front of Navy Headquarter at Gulshan, asked the young man --Belal -- to stop when he along with a woman and two children were passing through the area at about

As Belal attempted to attack him with a knife, the Ansar fired a shot. killing him on the spot. Gulshan police claimed that the Ansar opened fire in self-defense and that Belal was an alleged child trafficker. A case was filed with the Gulshan thana in this connection.

ISPs plan to sue govt, BTTB over line rent hike

The Internet Service Providers Association (ISPA) plans to file a case against the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication and the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) to overturn a decision to increase monthly line rent for the ISPs nearly seven fold.

The BTTB has increased rent for each telephone line the ISPs use to Tk 1,000 from Tk 150. The new tariff has been put into effect from February this

"We have talked to lawyers and they are examining legal grounds to sue the ministry and the BTTB for such an irrational increase," ISPA President Akhtaruzzaman Manju told The Daily Star last week

The association will go to court, if the ministry and the BTTB do not overturn the decision for the line rent hike, he said. Last Wednesday, leaders of the ISPA, the Bangladesh Association of

Software and Information Services (BASIS) and the Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS) met Post and Telecommunications Minister Barrister Aminul Hug and requested him no to put in effect the new tariff.

"We are yet to get any concrete decision from the minister in this regard,"

Arrest of Proshika staff: **HC** asks govt to show cause

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to show cause why arrest of Omar Tareque Chowdhury, deputy director of Proshika, and Azharul Haq a messenger of the same organisation, would not be declared illegal.

The Bench comprising Justice Abdul Matin and Justice Marziul Haque issued rule nishi following two separate writ petitions filed against arrest of the two.

The Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka, Inspector General of Police (IGP) and Secretary of the Home Ministry have been asked to reply within next seven days, according to the court order.

The court also permitted Dr Giti Ara Nasreen, wife of Tareque



Mirpur Road in front of Dhaka College is choked up by bumper to bumper traffic jam yesterday. Various attempts by the traffic department, including making it a one-way lane, did little to improve the situation.

Politics sans ideology leads to corruption, workshop told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Politics without ideological conviction and political patronage of criminals have led to the rise in corruption and lawlessness, a workshop was told yesterday.

The first day of a three-day workshop on sustainable development yesterday also observed that corruption had already got social legitimacy in the country.

The first session of the workshop was on 'Corruption, Criminalisation and Violence in Bangladesh'. The workshop titled 'Sustainable Development in Bangladesh: Achievements, Opportunities, and Challenges at Rio+10' was organised by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) in the city.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Victims of nature's whims

Haor farmers face repeated crop failures, while a dam could save their fate

REAZ AHMAD, back From Shulla, Sunamganj

Farmers of Paschim Kashipur and adjoining villages under Atgaon union of Shulla thana in Sunamgani district have lost eligibility for getting farm credit from

But none can blame them for this misfortune, as they are not willful loan defaulters.

They live with water during seven months of the ear, with no work. The villages are encircled by Chhaya Haor and Kaliguta Haor and are close to the border of Netrokona district. Early completion of the Dirai-Shulla road-cum

embankment can change their fate The cash crop in the area is paddy, grown once a

year. Lands remain under water for seven months of a year (from the Bengali month Jaishta to Kartik), thereby giving the farmers the only option to go for Boro cultivation during the five-month (Agrahayan to Poush) dry season.

But a good harvest depends on the mercy of

Repeated loss of Boro crop has made them financially handicapped. They could not repay loans and so the doors of Krishi Bank are now closed for them.

"On an average, farmers in the area can harvest paddy only twice in every five years. Either drought or hailstorms or early flood stalks these villages routinely", Juned Munir Pradip, Chairman of Atgaon Union Parishad said while talking to this correspondent recently.

Elderly farmer Abdul Malik of Paschim Kashipur said. "Almost all the farmers of our village are indebted to Krishi Bank. We can't apply for fresh loan now."

Moneylenders have taken the chance. "During dry season agents of mahajans (moneylenders) from Dhaka, Comilla, Faridpur and other districts approach the poor farmers. They give us loan during Falgun-Chaitra (Bengali months) and recover the loan in kind during Jaishta-Ashar. They take away one maund of paddy (priced at Tk 200 to 220) against Tk 100 loan",

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

EDITOR: MAHFUZ ANAM-Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd., 229 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-12015, Tel: 8124944, 8124955, 8124956, Fax: 8125155, 8126154, GPO Box No: 3257, www.dailystamnews.com, E-mail: dseditor@gononet.com, dsreport@gononet.com, dsreport@gononet.com