METROPOLITAN

Khaleda wants to erase our glorious history: Hasina

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday criticised the government, particularly Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, for "declaring a war against the coun-

try's independence."
"In a bid to hide the misdeeds of
Jamaat-e-Islami in the War of Liberation and take revenge for its defeat, Khaleda wants to erase the country's glorious history, destroy the sovereignty and change the national anthem. She wants to make Bangladesh a vassal state of

Hasina was speaking at the party's Dhanmondi office in the afternoon when newly elected chairman of Manikganj pourasava

Ramzan Ali meether.
"Ziaur Rahman had started removing the glorious history of the liberation war, rehabilitating war criminals in politics and creating a stronghold of communal terrorists in the country, and his wife Khaleda Zia is now completing his unfinished tasks...She has declared a war against the country's independence," Hasina said.

Hasina said many distorted and wrong information have been included in the "Document of Independence" which the Liberation War Affairs Ministry has reprinted recently.

draft law

The cabinet yesterday discussed the proposed National Medical University Law-2004 to bring country's all medical institutions under a

national medical university in the greater interest of a balanced devel-

The meeting decided to form a committee to further scrutinise the

draft law aimed at providing more quality medicare services to the

people and development of medical

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia

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presided over the meeting at Prime

opment of medical education.

NATIONAL MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

Body to scrutinise

declared independence on March 27. They later shifted to March 26 and now they have taken up March 25. They spelled out three dates thrice like the birthday of Khaleda Zia. There might come a day when they will say that Zia didn't proclaim independence and thus deny the country's independence," she said. Hasina said Khaleda cannot

accept defeat in the liberation war and that is why she is taking revenge by erasing history and also to make Jamaat happy. "Distortion of history is taking place to enchain Bangladesh in slavery." She said four EPR members who

had broadcast the declaration of independence through wireless transmission were brutally killed later and she had found family members of one EPR member who could tell the truth.

The former premier said the BNP-Jamaat alliance government has let loose 70,000 terrorists across the country who are repressing the people. This government has destroyed all three important institutions Parliament, Administration

and the Judiciary -- through politicisation, she said.

AL leader Motia Chowdhury, Obaidul Kader, Mukul Bose, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Prof Nazma Rahman were present at the

Garment factory owners and workers took out a colourful procession at Rampura in the city yesterday to mark the World Population Day, Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and UNFPA jointly organised the programme Involve more women in local

bodies for sustainable dev

Speakers tell SAP-Bangladesh workshop

Speakers at a workshop yesterday stressed the need for ensuring participation of more women in the local bodies to achieve sustainable development in the South Asian

They were addressing the inaugural session of a three-day workshop on 'South Asia Regional Forum on Women and Local Governance: Focus on Local Government' organised by South Asia Partnership (SAP)-Bangladesh with support from CIDA at Sheraton Hotel in the city.

chief guest, Principal Secretary to

the Prime Minister Dr Kamal Uddin

Siddiqui said good governance and strengthening of institutions are the

key issues of the government. "We

are reforming the local government

institutions gradually to revitalise

The non-agricultural khas land management and lease policy-1995, Amendment and Yearly leasing out The main objective of the workshop is to develop a common underof non-agricultural khas land also standing for women development came up for the discussion. and strengthening local bodies in The cabinet also directed the South Asia by exchanging knowledge and expertise. The workshop land ministry to strengthen the proposal considering the protection will also identify problems to of the greater public interest. address the issues concerned. Besides, a draft law on Jatiya Addressing the workshop as the

Elections Law-2004, was placed at the meeting. The cabinet also dis-cussed different aspects of election process of reserved women seats. It decided to discuss in details the issue of holding elections to reserved

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women seats free from fault

Sangsad (reserved Women Seats)

"Over the years, the government took some steps to make the local governments transparent, accountable and functional," he said adding that that is why more and more women have been participating in various activities of the local bodies including union parishads, Gram Sarkars and pourasabhas. Dr Siddiqui said there are many

projects for women empowerment on education, healthcare, microcredit and self-employment. With chairman of the SAP Asru

Kana Das in the chair, Executive Director of the Institute of Social Science of India Dr George Matthew addressed the function as the spe-SAP Executive Director Syed

Nurul Alam, Interim Executive Director of the SAP-International of Sri Lanka Dr Rohit Kumar Nepali, Prof Zerina Rahman and Executive Director of the SAP-Canada Richard Harmston also spoke.

Dr Rohit blamed political and democratic systems of South Asia for failure to bring about a change in the practices of governance in the South Asian countries, which was hindering sustainable development

of women in the region. Nurul Alam said keeping nearly half of the population mute and out of participation in the development activities eventually cripples the whole process of social development. When women are excluded from the structure of governance, consequences are obvious, he said.

Besides, the host country, delegates from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Canada took part in the workshop.

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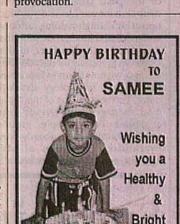
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Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan left here for Hanoi yesterday on a three-day official visit to Vietnam.

During the visit, he will hold bilateral talks with his Vietnamese counterpart and meet Minister of Trade. He will also call on President Tran Duc Luong and Prime Minister Phan Van Khai.

He will also meet with leaders of Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Your Bhaiya, Mum & Dad

JCD-BCL clash

college: 12 hurt

A clash between the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Azam Khan Govt. Commerce College in Khulna left 12 students

Five seriously injured students

According to police, the clash

are now undergoing treatment at

erupted following an altercation

between leaders of two rival student

organisations over the coming

Armedwith brickbats and clubs, the

Among the injured, seven are

The BCL accused the JCD leaders

activists attacked their rivals during the

clash that continued for over 20 min-

BCL workers while five others are

of launching the attack without any

utes until police stepped in.

aligned to JCD.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

at Khulna

injured vesterday.

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