

AL demands

FROM PAGE 1
the country since the BNP-led alliance government took over.

"We also demand judicial probe into the Sylhet blasts," said Hasina, leader of the opposition in parliament.

Hasina made the demands at a press conference at the local Circuit House yesterday. She came to Sylhet on a daylong programme.

"We have already talked to British parliamentarians and others. But the alliance rulers are not interested in any international probe since they are linked to the incidents of bomb blasts," the AL chief said.

Hasina visited Gulshan centre premises where the blast on Saturday night left Sylhet AL leader Mohammad Ibrahim killed and about 35 others injured. She also visited the injured now under treatment at MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Condemning the bomb blast, the opposition leader said such incidents were taking place in Sylhet one after another as people involved in them had the backing of ruling alliance top leaders and local lawmaker.

Incidents of violence in different regions of the country, Hasina said, the same communal militant group, using different names, is involved in these. It uses the name Janajuddha in Khulna, Banglabhai in Rajshahi and Tiger in Sylhet region.

The coalition rulers have a hand in all these incidents, she alleged.

The former prime minister said Bangladesh is now portrayed abroad as a 'terrorist country' and the ruling coalition is fully responsible for this.

Referring to the recent killing of the prime minister in law maker Ahsanullah Master's murder case, Hasina said, "We want to know who

Another abduction in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

ordered the killing."

On the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), she said the alliance rulers are busy creating various 'bahinis' with the tax payers' money to hide their own crimes.

She alleged that two top BNP leaders' sons are involved in misdeeds in their own areas.

The whole country is now in the grip of bombers, abductors and other criminals. Murders, arson and abduction have become everyday affair.

Peace and security are nowhere. All this proves total failure of this government," the opposition leaders said.

Militants are blasting bombs even in mosques, madrasas, temples and other religious places, she said. "People now want to get rid of such a suffocating situation."

Replies to a question, Hasina said, "I cannot understand why Sylhet is being targeted repeatedly. We are really worried about Sylhet."

Sylhet City Corporation Mayor and city AL President Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran also spoke on the occasion.

The mother of the boy killed in the August 5 blast in front of a local cinema hall, Firoza Begum, met Hasina at the Circuit House. Slain AL leader Ibrahim's brother Jafar also met her.

Hasina gave some money to the city mayor for treatment of the injured in Saturday's blast.

The AL president was accompanied by party General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Suranjit Sengupta, Abdus Shahid, Dewan Farid Gazi, AMA Muhi, Sultan Mohammad Mansur, Obaidul Quader and Abdur Rahman.

Hasina visited the shrines of Hazrat Shahjalal and Hazrat Shah Poran.

FROM PAGE 1
Nurul Islam, 40, a rickshaw-puller, and Swapna Ali, 27, a garment factory worker.

Hundreds of locals and relatives of the drowned boat passengers gathered on the bank of Buriganga worriedly watching the floating bodies, their stink permeating the area.

"The boat was ferrying around 100 passengers from Kaliganj to Sadarghat at around 3:30pm Tuesday. Suddenly, a single-decker launch turned right towards the Sadarghat launch and ran over the ferryboat just 20 yards off the pontoon," Babul, a terminus staff who had witnessed the accident, narrated.

"Of the passengers, around 70 either swam ashore or managed to board some boats that came to rescue. The rest of the passengers went missing," he added.

Locals alleged when boatmen rushed to rescue the victims, police beat and dispersed them to keep the prime minister's route across the river free. The PM crossed the river about half an hour after the accident.

The policemen who watched the accident nonchalantly did not even inform the fire brigade.

"We received the information at around 6:30pm, three hours after the incident, and called out divers from

CPD sees flood damage

FROM PAGE 1
government at \$6.7 billion

"The main challenge the government faces now after the recession of floodwaters is to create domestic demand through adopting an expansionary economic policy by increasing public expenditure," Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of the CPD, said at a press briefing on "Rapid Assessment of Flood 2004" in the capital.

Bangladesh with its own domestic resources can by and large finance the post-flood reconstruction work, the CPD maintains.

"A closer look at the allocations made under both Revenue Budget and Annual Development Programme (ADP) reveals that the government has at its disposal (either unallocated or earmarked for use of physical infrastructure development) at least Tk 3,426 crore."

"If one can tap into the Block Allocation for the other sectors (and not fully utilise the Unexpected Allocation) total amount of available resources may go as high as up to Tk 2,916 crore, residential Tk 3,706 crore and industries Tk 493 crore, according to the preliminary estimate of the CPD."

The private sector has lost Tk 7,115 crore to the floods -- agriculture Tk 2,916 crore, residential Tk 3,706 crore and industries Tk 493 crore, according to the preliminary estimate of the CPD.

The public sector damage stands at Tk 4,303 crore, of which infrastructure incurred Tk 3,857 crore, education Tk 345 crore, health Tk 48 crore, industries Tk 38 crore and agriculture Tk 3.9 crore.

The CPD suggests the government spend Tk 3,426 crore the budget set aside as block allocations and under repairs, maintenance and rehabilitation head for post-flood infrastructure rehabilitation.

The CPD suggests the government restructure budget to enhance public investment in post-flood rehabilitation programme, increase credit flow in the agriculture and industrial sectors and woo additional foreign aid.

The worst flood-hit areas received less relief materials compared to moderately-affected areas, according to a CPD survey.

The government and the NGOs were sluggish to respond to the needs and their responses, too, were poor at the initial stage, many respondents of the survey told the CPD.

"The response of the NGO was surprisingly late. In some areas, the NGO response came after the government programmes were initiated," the CPD says quoting its survey.

"The distinguishing features of this year's flood was that individual level and community level philanthropic and relief operations were extensive in many areas and in many instances actually filled the vacuum left by the late response of the government and the NGOs," the CPD observed.

Debapriya noted the NGOs have

wider scope in the post-flood rehabilitation and urged the government to take measures to immediately release foreign funds channelled to the NGOs.

Many raised allegations of nepotism, pilferage and politicisation in relief distribution operations.

The CPD sent its teams to 12 upazilas of nine districts to carry out the survey and interviewed some 900 flood-affected local people. They also talked with government officials including upazila nirbahi officers, magistrates, journalists and NGO activists.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

The damage assessment was done on the basis of data and information gathered from government and non-government sources and also from media reports. Later, the CPD held an in-house dialogue with the government and non-government experts before finalising the report.

Detained girl awarded custody

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The National Women Lawyers' Association yesterday took into its custody the 14-year-old girl detained in jail without trial for more than a year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Jahangir Alam issued the order of custody the same day on a petition filed by Advocate Mahmuda Khatun, member of the association, on August 4.

Shama Nishat held under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka at 2:00pm from the Correction Centre in Tongi, Gazipur.

Police arrested Nishat on July 20 last year from her foster mother Rahatunnesa's house on Road No.6/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka after Rahat filed a general diary with Dhanmondi Police Station accusing Nishat of attempting to kill her by a kitchen machete.

Police the next day produced Nishat before a court that put her in jail custody.

The law dictates that if the investigation officer (IO) does not press specific charge against one arrested under Section 54, the arrestee has to be set free.

The teenage girl was still languishing in prison, although IO Sub-inspector Abdul Mannan Munshi had not submitted any charge despite repeated instructions of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

The court also summoned Rahat several times to appear before it, but she never turned up.

Manpower export

FROM PAGE 12

links between Bangladesh's candidacy for the post of secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the delay in manpower export to Malaysia, which also contested for the post.

"We never received any indication from Kuala Lumpur that it has reservations about Bangladesh following its contesting the OIC post," a top official said.

Malaysia stopped recruiting fresh workers from Bangladesh in 1997 following influx of a large number of undocumented workers.

Around 1.13 lakh Bangladeshis are now working in Malaysia and their job tenure has been renewed for another five years.

In mid-90s, about half a million Bangladeshis got jobs in that country and most of them came back home in 2002 in the