

Jailers 'force' Hasina

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justice. "Where should I go to get justice? Who to ask for justice? I do not know how much you will be able to deliver justice; I want justice from the people of the country. The people of the country will deliver the justice in the end," she said, addressing the court.

Hasina said it was said that she was unwilling to appear before the court on an earlier date. But how could she appear before the court as at least four to five tests were carried out on her on that day.

Referring to the ongoing price spiral and sufferings of people, Hasina said the government will not stay in power for a long time.

"People's sufferings are increasing with the spiraling prices of essentials. The government has to step down someday. The people of Bangladesh will obviously take to the streets in protest of their sufferings," she said.

Hasina said she cannot understand on which grounds her relatives, lawyers and physicians are not being allowed to meet her while false cases are being filed against her one after another.

Hasina also described the way she was treated at the Square Hospital after being admitted there on March 11.

She said the doctors who attended her were neither experts nor senior physicians. Only a few junior doctors visited her at the hospital. Her body got swollen once following the treatment she was given to lower her blood pressure.

"My body was swollen due to allergy. Fortunately, I knew some treatment like applying vaseline or olive oil on the skin," Hasina added.

The AL president said the doctor, who referred her to get admitted to the hospital, was not even allowed to visit her for a single day.

Moreover, none of the medical board, formed to examine her physical condition, visited her or conducted any test on her.

Hasina also informed the court of the fact that the eye specialist, who had been attending her, suggested her to avoid exposure to light.

The former premier said she had tried several places for getting proper treatment but she found out that it is available only in the USA. Her treatment is not possible in Bangladesh.

Hasina also told the court that she was scheduled to receive treatment for her ear yesterday. But the jail authorities cancelled it saying that they have to take her to sub-jail.

She said physicians come from

DCC finds

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Technology (Buet), and three engineers—one each from DCC, Housing and Public Works department and the engineering corps of Bangladesh army.

Headed by Prof Sheikh Sekander Ali of Buet, it will start working today and submit report within the next two weeks. In the interim, the mayor said, two engineers including DCC Chief Engineer Colonel Ashfaqul Islam will visit the site twice a day to monitor the cracks.

Earlier on Saturday, the cracks in a side wall on the ground floor of City Centre designed to be an office block-cum-multi-storey car park widened and set off panic in the commercial neighbourhood. They prompted police to evacuate those who live or work in the area.

The mayor yesterday said companies having office in the building have been asked to continue business as usual since "doing so does not involve any risk".

Asked what he thinks had led to the cracks, the DCC chief engineer said, "Something definitely happened, and the probe committee will find that out."

DCC Chief Executive Officer Alauddin Ahmed and some other high officials were present at the press conference.

Meanwhile, the road in front of the building that was closed off as a precaution has been opened again.

STATEMENT OF BELHASA ACCOM

Belhasa Accom JV, the firm constructing City Centre, in a statement yesterday maintained the cracks are in the temporary brick wall and there is nothing to panic.

The cracks would not do any harm to the main structure, they added.

Purchase body

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regard will be signed soon.

Sources said the advisory council meeting was apprised of the decisions. It was also informed that one lakh tonnes of rice would be imported within a month after opening L/Cs.

During his Bangladesh visit after cyclone Sidr battered the country last year, Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee pledged to export five lakh tonnes of rice. The import of one lakh tonnes of rice from West Bengal Essential Commodities Supply Corporation (WBECSC) at \$399 per tonne has already begun.

The price of the remaining four lakh tonnes of rice and the time of delivery have been fixed through negotiations between Bangladesh and representatives of four Indian exporters—Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC), State Trading Corporation (STC), Project Equipment and Commodities Limited (PEC) and National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation—in Dhaka last week.

The Indian delegation on last Thursday offered the export price of pulses rose by Tk 2 to Tk 3 per kg in the wholesale markets yesterday after it fell by Tk 6-11 over the last two weeks.

Asked, the wholesalers and retailers could not give any reason for the hike when new pulses entered the market only a week ago.

The wholesale price of flour increased by Tk 100 per sack (74 kg) while that of edible oil rose by Tk 60 to Tk 100 per maund (26.22 kg) in last two days.

Sugar sold at Tk 1,800-1,850 per 50-kg sack yesterday while only three days back, it cost Tk 1,700.

In the retail outlets, battery chicken was selling at Tk 95-105 per kg while two days ago it sold at Tk 90-95. The price of egg was Tk 19 to Tk 22 yesterday, rising by Tk 2 per hali (four eggs).

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Reminiscing '71

FROM PAGE 16
They nostalgic crowd gathered around the Indian war heroes and cheered them.

Hello my old comrades in arms, very much happy to see you after a long time," many of them said to each other.

During a brief ceremony, leader of the delegation Jacob said, "You cannot understand what I feel. My heart bleeds... I am so much touched... the nation has emerged like the phoenix from the flame higher and higher."

How can I express my gratitude, I can only say God bless you and God bless Bangladesh," he said.

AK Khanader in his welcome address said their delegation of the Indian Army visit has taken all of us to the nostalgic days of 1971.

The visit should have taken place much earlier, he said adding that the people of Bangladesh will always welcome them with open arms.

Leaders of SCF, Dr Kamal Hossain, Abdur Razzak, Toafil Ahmed, Motia Chowdhury, Haider Akbar Khan Rono, Hasanul Haq Inu, Rashed Khan Menon, were present at the reception among others.

Indian army

FROM PAGE 16
The army chief recalled their contributions to the liberation war with great honour, said an ISPR press release.

Describing them as goodwill ambassadors, Gen Moeen said, "Your visit in Bangladesh will further strengthen the friendship between the two countries."

The 11-member team of the former Indian army officers arrived in Dhaka Tuesday night at the invitation of the government on the occasion of the Independence and National Day.

UN medal

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was proud to participate in the resolution of the conflict in Ivory Coast and expressed their resolve to collectively defend the United Nations mandate for peace in the country.

General Amoussou, on behalf of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Y J Choi, thanked Dalao's political and administrative authorities, including its traditional and religious leaders, for their continuing support to the foreign peacekeeping forces. He also thanked the Bangladeshi units deployed there.

Bangladesh first entered the family of "Blue Helmets" in 1988, and since then has provided over 60,000 soldiers to various missions.

There are currently more than 9,600 Bangladeshi soldiers and police operating in 11 different peacekeeping operations, making Bangladesh one of the top contributors of uniformed personnel to the UN.

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CA urges agriculturists

FROM PAGE 1
workers of the government and private organisations.

The Bari has recently developed 126 new varieties of crops including high yielding, temperature- and salt-tolerant and insect resistant food grains, vegetables and crops, and 55 technologies for production management of the crops.

The Bari has so far developed 281 high-yielding varieties of crops and 293 production friendly technologies.

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However, they both agree that an organised gang stole the clips.

Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of GRP, told The Daily Star, "It is impossible to remove the clips overnight dodging the eyes of people in an area where there are Bangladesh Navy personnel on one side, Army personnel on the other and Dhaka Metropolitan Police on the duty between."

He suspects that people of Bangladesh Railway and Max Automobiles, a subcontractor of a railway project, were involved in the theft that took at least two to three days to complete.

However, he said, "We are sure that the thieves took no more than two to three hours to remove the clips using six to seven men."

"Today, on the first day of our investigation, we practically verified whether it was possible to remove the clips within two to three hours," he said.

He said an organised gang committed the theft and the clips were transported by pick-up trucks or other motorised vehicles as the clips should weigh no less than three tonnes.

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