

Control price hike of essentials: Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over people's sufferings caused by price hike of essentials, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina called on the authorities concerned to take effective steps immediately to keep the prices within a reasonable range.

The Awami League (AL) president was talking to her Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad over telephone yesterday.

Hasina said the limited and low-income group hit-hard by price soaring has been going through intolerable miseries in the month of Ramadan.

The flood-affected people are

also bearing the burnt of price hike, she added.

The AL chief said people can definitely remember that they had a peaceful life during her tenure and the prices of essentials did not soar even during the month of Ramadan.

She said the AL does politics for the welfare of the people and people's interest and welfare are the main concern of her party.

Hasina said though the prices of essential commodities have reduced in international markets, the high prices still prevail in Bangladesh.

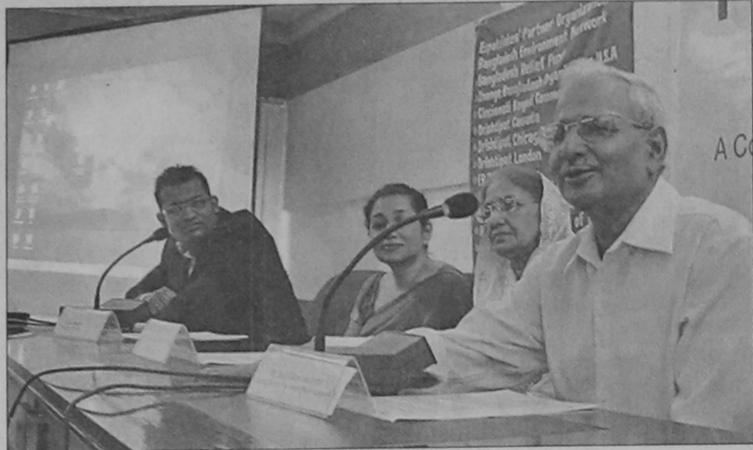
She urged the party leaders as well as the well-off people of the

society to stay beside the limited income group and the flood-affected people.

Meanwhile, Hasina will deliver a speech at a rally in New York on September 14 and will take part in an Iftar party with expatriates, according to a US-based news agency ANA.

She will go to John Hopkins Hospital again on September 17 for follow-up treatment and then she will fly to her daughter's house in Canada.

Afterwards, Hasina will fly to her sister's house in London with her son, daughter, grandsons and granddaughters to celebrate holy Eid-ul-Fitr, the news agency added.



Country Director of The Hunger Project Bangladesh Badiul Alam Mazumdar speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city recently. (Story on Page 3)

Theft at 12 shops, robbery in city house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theft was committed at 12 shops on Tuesday night while robbers looted valuables worth Tk 10 lakh from the house of one Bangladeshi expatriate in the city yesterday.

Police said the thieves sneaked into the shops located on the ground and 1st floor of Tower Market on Nababpur Road and took away money worth Tk 1.44 lakh breaking open the cash boxes.

Mohammad Shahjahan, a shop owner, has filed a case with Kotwali Police Station in this connection.

Meanwhile, a gang of masked robbers stormed the house of Saiful Islam at 2.00am breaking the collapsible gate and looted Tk 3 lakh in cash, 25 tolas of gold ornaments and other valuables.

129 sacks of urea seized

CU CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Coast Guard seized 129 sacks of smuggled urea fertiliser from a boat at Shah Amanat Bridge area in Chittagong yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a patrol team of the Coast Guard raided Shah Amanat Bridge area at around 4.30am and challenged a boat, sources said.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the smugglers escaped the scene leaving the boat at the bank of the river Karnaphuli.

The Coast Guard detained the boat and seized 129 sacks of fertiliser worth around Tk 77,000 from the boat.

Drafts of new rules to be posted on website for public opinion

UNB, Dhaka

Drafts of new rules and regulations or amendments will be posted on websites of the ministries concerned for public opinion with three months' time limit before finalisation.

Notice about uploading the drafts on websites will be given to the print media, according to a decision of the caretaker government.

A meeting of the Council of Advisers approved the decisions yesterday after discussing a proposal for implementation of the second spell of interim recommendations made by the Regulatory Reforms Commission (RRC) and placed by the Cabinet Division. Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed presided over the meeting.

The meeting discussed the draft of Dhaka Shishu Hospital

Ordinance 2008 and sent it back for further vetting.

However, the meeting stressed the need for proper running of the hospital and observed that its "proper management is an imperative".

The council of advisers also discussed the draft of the Non-Realisable Public Utility Bill Ordinance 2008 and sent it back for further discussion with stakeholders and further examination in the light of the discussion at the meeting.

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim briefed newsmen about the outcome of the meeting.

Advisers and Special Assistants to the Chief Adviser attended the meeting at the CA's office. Cabinet Secretary, CA's press secretary and secretaries were present at the meeting.

Criminal killed in crossfire with police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A criminal was killed in crossfire with the police in Jhenidah town last night.

The dead was identified as Siraj, 28, son of Abul Hossain of Paglakanai village.

Officer-in-Charge of Jhenidah Sadar Police Station Kazi Wased Ali said that they received secret information that a gang of criminals gathered on the compound of Water Development Board. A team of police then rushed to the spot

and cordoned off the area.

But the criminals, sensing the presence of police, started firing, prompting the police to fire. During the shootout, police fired 20 bullets and the criminals 30 bullets.

As Siraj tried to flee, he caught in the crossfire and died on the spot, but his cohorts managed to flee, the OC said, adding that Siraj is a listed criminal. He is also an accused in two murder cases.

The police recovered an LG and four bullets from the spot.

Anti-corruption signature collection campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A booth for collection of signatures against corruption opened at the New Market in the city yesterday.

Support Advertising Limited opened the booth as part of its countrywide anti-corruption signature collection campaign. Assurance Development Ltd sponsored the booth at the New Market.

Inaugurating the booth, eminent litterateur Selina Hossain called on all, especially the young generation, to come forward to raise awareness about corruption.

It is possible to build a corruption-free country if awareness can be raised at all levels of society, she said.

The signature collection booth was set up at the Gate No. 1 of the New Market.

Khandaker Sayed, managing director of Support Advertising Limited, Chhoton Chandra Paul, an official of Assurance Developments Limited, and Mohammad Moshtaque, general secretary of New Market Shop Owners' Association, were present at the inaugural ceremony.



Litterateur Selina Hossain inaugurates a booth for anti-corruption signature collection campaign at New Market in the city yesterday.

Tk 2cr support for acid victims

BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday allocated Tk 2 crore for National Acid Control Council (NACC) to give financial support to the acid victims for their treatment and rehabilitation and extending legal assistance.

The decision was taken at the 18th meeting of the NACC at Ministry of Home Affairs with Home Adviser Maj Gen (ret) MA Matin in the chair, an official hand-out said.

Secretaries of the ministries of law, commerce and social welfare, concerned officials and representatives of NGOs were present at the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the progress of making the list of authorised and unauthorised acid dealers and asked the monitoring cell of the police to expedite the investigation of all cases relating to acid-throwing.

Referring to the deputy commissioners' report across the country, the meeting was told that most of the acid dealers are doing business without licence. On the issue the meeting asked for reinforcing issuance of licences for acid dealers.

The meeting was also told that the number of acid victims has been declining in the country at a rate of 15 to 20 percent every year and laid importance on continuation of the trend.

The meeting decided to strengthen media campaign to enhance public awareness against misuse of acid.

Cop held while taking bribe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday caught an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police while taking bribe at Zakiganj in Sylhet.

A team of ACC caught Harun ur Rashid, an ASI of Zakiganj Police Station, from a hotel in Zakiganj at 8:00pm yesterday while he was taking Tk 20,000 as bribe from Abul Hashem, a retired army sergeant.

Harun demanded Tk 50,000 to Hashem for getting Hashem cleared from a fake kidnapping case.

Harun told Hashem that a kidnapping case has been filed with Uttara Police Station in Dhaka against five including Hashem. Hashem settled the bribe at Tk 20,000 and informed the ACC.

Earlier, the ASI realised Tk 10,000 from him for getting him cleared from a fake murder case with Mirpur Police Station, which upon inquiry Hashem found fake.

The ACC is taking preparation to file a case against the ASI.

Scout leaders to raise awareness about dengue

METRO DESK

To create awareness about dengue fever among the people, a meeting of Bangladesh Scouts and the Department of Health officials has decided to train up the Scout leaders, says a press release.

The meeting was held at the Bangladesh Scouts head office in the city on Monday.

Some 500 Scout leaders and Rover Scouts will be trained up for this purpose. Later, they will go door-to-door in the city and will raise awareness about dengue fever.

The training will begin today and next training will be held on September 14, 15 and 16.

Jalil, 6 other politicians get bail

FROM PAGE 1

leaders including former ministers Nazmul Huda and Mirza Abbas in separate criminal cases filed by the ACC and government.

The other four are former state ministers Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, ex-deputy minister Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu and former lawmaker Mosaddek Ali Falu.

Upon separate petitions, the HC vacation bench comprising Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Mamnoon Rahman gave the bail orders.

CASE AGAINST JALIL

After hearing a writ petition filed by Jalil, the HC bench also issued a rule upon the ACC and government to explain why initiation and continuation of proceeding of the case against the petitioner should not be declared illegal.

In the hearing yesterday, Jalil's counsel Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam told the court that the government had released him on parole considering his illness. He underwent treatment in Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore but he is not completely cured till now.

"Tenure of his parole expires today (Wednesday). It is not yet

known whether the government has extended the tenure of parole. In this situation he should be granted bail in this case," the counsel said.

He submitted to the court a medical report on Jalil.

The court granted him ad-interim bail for 40 days (till October 20).

On May 28 last year, joint forces arrested Jalil.

The ACC filed a case against him with Ramna Police Station on December 18 last year. He was charge-sheeted for acquiring wealth worth Tk 35.08 lakh beyond his known sources of income and concealing information about assets worth Tk 36.04 lakh.

After his release on parole for a month, Jalil flew to Singapore on March 3 and underwent treatment there. Later, his parole was extended several times. He returned home on August 31.

HUDA, ABBAS AND OTHERS

The HC granted ad-interim bail to Nazmul Huda in three criminal cases -- one filed by the ACC and two by individuals.

Huda's counsel Ashanur Rahman told newsmen that he was arrested in 20 cases and he secured bail in six. So, he will not be released from jail soon.

On March 21, ACC Deputy Director (DD) Shafiqul Islam lodged a case against Nazmul Huda with Shahbagh Police Station saying that while Huda was communications minister, he resorted to illegal means and abused power to allocate a piece of Bangladesh Railway land to an organisation -- Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) -- run by his wife Sigma Huda.

In the first information report (FIR), the ACC deputy director mentioned that Huda took Tk 2.4 crore in bribe for giving the land to BSEHR, where Sigma is secretary general.

The other two cases were filed with Dohar District Station -- one by a local Awami League leader and the other by an individual from the area.

Mirza Abbas got bail in a case filed on charge of selling out 18 abandoned government houses at a fake auction.

Alamgir was granted bail in an extortion case, Dulu in a land grabbing case and Nasiruddin and Falu in tax evasion cases filed by the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

UK lends hand to fight climate fallout

FROM PAGE 1

Aziz added the effects of climate change will severely constrain Bangladesh's ability to attain the high rates of economic growth needed to sustain development gains.

"This is why today, we are presenting our Climate Change Action Plan and calling upon the international community to assist Bangladesh by providing predictable, long-term financing for this plan and also by pushing for a meaningful agreement at Copenhagen."

A conference in Copenhagen will be held in December 2009 seeking agreements between all countries over emission standards. There is a tension between the developed and developing countries over the emission levels, as high emission of fossil fuels in the developed countries has triggered the global warming.

Global warming might increase the sea level by 1 meter by the end of the century causing Bangladesh to lose one-fifth of its land, many predict.

The London conference was participated by around 120 people, half of them from Dhaka and another 20 Bangladeshis expatriates. The rest are from DFID, the Danish Minister for International Development, and the World Bank Managing Director.

The DFID funded 39 members of

the official delegation comprising representatives from the government and non-government organisations and the media.

A participant of the conference told The Daily Star over phone that Bangladesh should not have hastily jumped to sign the communiqué with the UK without consulting its international allies on climate change.

Bangladesh belongs to G-77 that includes China and India in the climate negotiations. This communiqué can create a divide within G-77 and China and also to line-up more developing countries, especially LDCs, to take a position against the stance of the larger developed countries such as China, India and Brazil.

These three countries have been demanding that the developed countries must make unconditional and meaningful cuts in their emission levels. Developed countries, on the other hand, want China, India and Brazil to make deeper cuts in their emission levels.

But without consulting them, Bangladesh signed the communiqué what endorses the G-8 position that the developed countries would need to cut their emission by 25-40 percent from the 1990 level by 2020, says a participant over telephone.

"The G-77 wants the cuts to be deeper and faster and Bangladesh should not have endorsed the position

without consulting fellow G-77 countries," quips a participant of the conference.

The communiqué creates the provision of a Multi Donor Trust Fund for climate change with 75 million pound grant.

"This is also a compromise from the G-77 position that all new and additional funds should be under a multilateral process such as the United Nations Forum on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The government position is also criticised as the ERD has agreed to employ the World Bank as the trustee of the Fund against the view of the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

Most of the countries in G-77 are strongly opposing the World Bank involvement in managing climate change funds.

The communiqué puts undue emphasis on adaptation issues, without putting equal emphasis on mitigation. This implies a developing country like Bangladesh will take full responsibility for adaptation measures, pending a firm commitment from the developed countries on mitigation issues, one of the participants observes.

This is a compromise on the G-77 position that adaptation is voluntary for the developing countries, but mitigation must be mandatory for the developed countries," says the source.

EC weighed down with poll reality factor

FROM PAGE 1

They argued that the move will hamper holding of the all important parliamentary election which is planned for December.

BNP and its alliance partners Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote, who boycotted the talks, also demanded that the EC holds the parliamentary poll first. They expressed their opinions in the letters they sent to the CEC.

Under the circumstances, senior EC officials are finding themselves rather directionless regarding the elections.

But some of them, who claim to be in the know, said the EC might concede to the political parties' demand, in a bid to break the stalemate.

At a meeting with the council of advisers to the government on Sunday, the EC opposed the government's plan for holding polls to as many upazilas as possible before the parliamentary election, sources in the commission said.

After much bargaining at the meeting, the EC finally agreed to hold polls to less than 100 upazila parishes before the parliamentary election, the sources added.

The EC Secretariat was also preparing for the polls, but political parties' strong opposition is forcing the commission to rethink its strategy.

Almost all political parties that sat with the EC recently for the third round of electoral talks, including Awami League and its allies, strongly opposed the idea of holding upazila polls next month.

liamentary polls.

The EC might meet the chief adviser again soon to discuss the new development in its predicament, the sources said.

On having the awaited talk with BNP, CEC Huda yesterday said the commission hopes to sit with BNP soon, as the process of releasing the party's detained Chairperson Khaleda Zia already started to roll.

The commission also already re-invited BNP to a dialogue, the CEC added.

He was talking to reporters in National Institute of Local Government (NILG) during the inaugural session of the Training of Trainers who will train field level polling officials expected to be on duty during the much debated upazila polls.

Field level EC officials participated in the training which was scheduled quite some time ago.

Addressing the trainees, the CEC reiterated the commission's determination to hold free, fair and credible elections.

The CEC asked the officials to strictly abide by the laws of the land and not to heed to any unwarranted suggestion from any 'organisation' or individual.

He advised the officials to stay alert during counting of ballots, so hijacking of ballot boxes and taking over control of polling centres by hooligans can be averted.

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Call for quick disposal of cases against juvenile inmates

HC judge visits Kishore Unnayan Kendra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, a judge of the High Court visited two centres of Kishore Unnayan Kendra at Tongi and Gazipur yesterday.

During the visit, Justice M Imman Ali asked the authorities to take steps for quick disposal of cases against juvenile inmates so that they can get back to their parents in the earliest possible time.

He also stressed the need for coordinated efforts by police, social welfare department and the judiciary to reduce the restrictions on the freedom of the inmates.

The children also shared their views with the judge and described their condition. The judge also expressed concern over long-term punishment to the children.

Justice Imman Ali advised the legal aid authorities to visit the centres regularly and ensure proper use of the legal aid fund for the release and rehabilitation of the inmates.

Gazipur District Judge Farid Ahmed Shibly, Additional District Magistrate Rezaul Karim and Director General of the department of social service Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury accompanied Justice Imman Ali during the visit.

JBIC merges with JICA

BSS, Dhaka

The Government of Japan has made an institutional realignment by integrating the activities of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) aid schemes.

According to a press release issued here yesterday, the merger would improve the quality of official development assistance (ODA) operations of Japan at 100 overseas offices.

The decision was taken in an effort to conduct ODA policy under a strategic framework and strengthen its implementation regime.

A new JICA will be born on October 1, 2008 and as an aid donor agency, it will provide technical cooperation, concessional loans (ODA loans), and grant aid under one roof, the release added.

Nat'l Co-operative Industry Assoc executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sadhana Das Gupta was elected president of the executive committee of Bangladesh National Co-operative Industry Association Ltd, says a press release.

Obaidur Rahman was elected vice-president in its election held on Sunday.

Members are: Md Shajahan, Md Abdul Hai Babul, Md Kamrul Hasan and Md Saiful Islam.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syeda Amina Islam, wife of Syed Wahidul Islam and aunt of AL acting General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at her Maghbar residence in the city yesterday at the age of 65.

She left behind her husband, three sons, five daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

She was buried at the family graveyard in Kishoreganj.

AL acting President Zillur Rahman expressed shock at her death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Dr Samsul Alam Khadem, former medical officer of Teigaon Thana Health Complex, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil, destitute feeding and discussion will be held at his village home in Brahmanbaria.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Kazi Anwarul Huq Tareq

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Kazi Anwarul Huq Tareq, former director of Abahani Club Limited, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa mahfils will be held at different mosques at Dhanmondi in the city.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to pray for his departed soul.

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop
A workshop under the Local Governance Support Project will be held on resource mobilisation of union parishad. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 11:00am.

Competition
Department of Development Studies of DU, Unnayan Shamunnay, Planning Commission and UNDP jointly organise a presentation competition on the role of private sector in achieving MDGs. Venue: Department of Development Studies conference room. Time: 10:00am.

Award giving ceremony
Mahatma Gandhi Research Council organises the Mahatma Gandhi Peace Award giving ceremony and a discussion. Venue: Bangladesh-China Conference Centre. Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion
Drik Picture Library Limited organises a discussion on 'Looking back' to celebrate its founding anniversary. Venue: Drik Gallery. Time: 4:00pm.

Human chain
Nagorik Adhiker Sangrakkhan Forum will form a human chain in protest of price hike during Ramadan. Venue: In front of National Museum. Time: 11:00am.

WEATHER TODAY

Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office.

Highest temperature 36.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 25.0 degrees Celsius at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:06pm today and rises at 5:44am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.0	26.6	69	73
Chittagong	33.5	25.6	69	92
Rajshahi	34.8	25.8	81	73
Khulna	34.4	26.4	70	80
Barisal	33.5	26.2	78	75
Sylhet	34.3	25.3	74	69
Cox's Bazar	33.6	25.8	73	86