

Try culprits

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On the prime minister's appeal to her to submit evidence before a probe committee, she said, "I never said I have evidence."

The BNP chairperson during a press briefing at her Gulshan office said, "They [MPs and ministers of the government] went to the spot amid gun fire and held a meeting with criminals. A state minister said the plot was implemented spending crores of taka. So, if he is interrogated evidence might be found."

The prime minister herself said in the parliament that pieces of evidence have been found. Ministers are giving statements regularly accusing different groups. So, it is their responsibility to submit evidence and to unravel the conspiracy."

She asked the government to be sincere so that mistakes made earlier would not be repeated. "Stay away from revenge and vindictiveness... ensure tough punishment for the criminals. Strengthen national security."

Urging all to cooperate with investigators, the BNP chief said the army is conducting an investigation under their own laws. She hoped the government would not interfere in the army probe.

On the CID investigation team, she said there are doubts about the sincerity of the government to ensure a neutral enquiry. There are

2 FBI men

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also provide forensic expertise to trace bodies of missing army officers killed in the BDR massacre," she added.

The US agency would set its terms of reference for working with the local investigation team, she said. "The length of their stay depends on their work."

She told reporters that the investigations would not be influenced like the one into the August 21, 2004 grenade attack.

Meanwhile, British High Commissioner in Dhaka Stefan Evans said a team from the Scotland Yard would soon arrive in Bangladesh.

"We have received a formal request from the government. I am hoping that a team will come out here in the near future. I am still waiting for the confirmation of the details," he told reporters at the Shilpkala function.

The seven-day deadline for the 11-member probe committee, formed on March 2, to submit its investigation report expires today.

Talking to reporters, Anisuzzaman said there is no chance of submitting the report this week. He made the comments after a meeting with the Additional Secretary to the Home Ministry Golam Hossain at the ministry. Golam Hossain is the member secretary of the 11-member committee.

He said the committee had asked for more time for submitting its findings. Asked about the progress, Anisuzzaman said the investigation was going on and it was the government to reveal the findings.

The government earlier reformed the six-member BDR mutiny probe body by removing Home Minister Sahara Khatun and the State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam. Anisuzzaman replaced Sahara as the head of the probe body that included representatives from the Armed Forces Division.

DSE's new policy

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often evaluate a Tk-1 share wrongly as they are used to dealing with shares with face value of Tk10 and Tk100.

"The wrong judgement of investors creates market volatility," the DSE president said.

Based on AIMS, which is the only one that has securities with face value of Tk 1, it cannot be said Tk 1 shares create market volatility.

Asked why the DSE made such a decision when the largest mobile phone operator is waiting for the SEC nod, Rakibur said, "Considering investors' interest and to avoid market volatility, we decided not to encourage any securities with a face value of Tk 1."

Asked about an allegation that many of the DSE board members are acting out of grudge as they did not get Grameenphone shares in pre-IPO placement, Rahman said, "We are not acting against Grameenphone."

Meanwhile, Grameenphone officials said they have no official comment on the issue. "We will wait for feedback from more than 50 local institutional investors."

Appellate Div 2 new judges take oath

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two newly appointed judges of the Supreme Court (SC) Appellate Division Justice Shah Abu Nayem Mominur Rahman and Justice Md Abdul Aziz took oath in a ceremony at SC Judges' lounge at 10:30am yesterday.

Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin conducted the oath to the new apex court judges. All the judges of the Appellate Division and High Court Division were present at the oath-taking ceremony.

Attorney General Mahbubul Alam and Secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Nurul Islam Sujan on behalf of their respective offices accorded felicitation to the new judges of the Appellate Division Court-1.

In their brief speeches, the two judges pledged to remain sincere in upholding the constitution and ensuring justice in the country through the judicial practice.

The judges also sought assistance from the judges and lawyers in discharging their duties. Later, they took their offices and started judicial exercise at the court.

Earlier on Wednesday, President Zillur Rahman appointed the most senior HC judges to the Appellate Division to fill up the long-standing vacancies as per Supreme Judicial Commission recommendations.

The appointments of the judges would expedite hearing on the long pending appeal in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case.

Moudud

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Shipon, 5, and one and a half year old daughter Maleka alias Maloi.

Neighbours quoting Shahjahan's daughter Shabana Akhter, 14, said after taking food Saturday night, the four members, Shabana and their son Sohag, 11, went to a room for sleeping.

Shabana awoke from her sleep early yesterday and tried to awake her mother but she did not get any response from her. Her brother Shipon and sister Maleka who were asleep by her mother also did not respond to her call. Finding no other alternative Shabana started crying. Hearing her cry for help, neighbours rushed in and found the body of Shahjahan hanging from the jackfruit tree behind their house.

Based on the primary investigation, ASP Sheikh Rafiqul Islam who visited the spot suspected that Shahjahan Ali strangled his wife and two children to death and then he committed suicide.

Officer-in-Charge of Islampur police station Mamunur Rashid said the incident is mysterious as there was no mark of injuries on the bodies while their close relatives went into hiding after the incident.

Local people suspected that the (killing) incident might have taken place following a dispute overland.

Shabana said she, her parents, her brother and sister took rice with dried fish and drank milk before going to the bed.

The bodies were sent to district general hospital morgue for autopsy.

An UD case was filed in connection with the death of Shahjahan while his father-in-law Samij Uddin filed a murder case.

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Meanwhile, Grameenphone finalised its plan to raise \$300 million (Tk 2,058 crore) - \$150 million from the stock market and the rest through private placement or pre-IPO. In July 2008, the company cut its planned IPO to \$125 million - \$65 million from the stock market and the rest \$60 million through private placement.

The Grameenphone's \$60 million pre-IPO has already been settled with a huge response from the local market.

It had three times the pre-IPO placement offer as it got a strong support from more than 50 local institutional investors.

The meeting yesterday also emphasised rapid work for making the headquarters in full swing.

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100 reserved

FROM PAGE 1
certainly become your and the country's asset," she advised people.

Hasina also endorsed women's contribution to advancing country's economy mentioning some 85 percent of laborers working in the garment sector are women and the sector is earning 75 percent of the country's total export income.

PM also recalled women's role during the Liberation War in 1971 as many women took part directly in the war and some two lakh women were oppressed by the Pakistani army and their collaborators.

"I also recall with respect those women who were killed, raped and suffered intolerable repression only for voting for Awami League in 2001 parliamentary polls by the BNP-Jamaat criminals," she said in a blistering criticism.

Hasina said the AL government for the first time had arranged direct election of women in the local-government system and increased the number of women in the highest-level government jobs.

The AL government also

had started recruiting women as officers of the Armed Forces Division.

While listing her previous government's doings for gender parity, she said maternal leave was increased to four months.

The present government has decided that a female government service holder will get all facilities that a male counterpart gets. From now on, any foreigner who would marry any children of a Bangladeshi woman will get citizenship of Bangladesh.

Official sources said at least 550 metric tons of coal has been extracted as a test case from 1114 coalface after miners joined work following a meeting with the authorities of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BMCML).

Coal production was sus-

ended after villagers affected by landslides at and around the mining site resisted drilling of boreholes for production of coal from "1114 Face" on February 25 over compensation issue.

The PM also deplored that till date Bangladesh is yet to reach the desired level of women's development as early marriage, dowry, woman and child trafficking are still taking place in the country.

Women and Children Affairs Secretary Rokeya Sultan and Director General of Woman Affairs Department Rawshan Ara Begum also spoke at the programme.

Exporters to get

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government at low interest rate and increase in cash incentive to fight the present economic depression.

The finance minister told reporters the government was not thinking about only one sector rather it was working for the betterment of all sectors.

After the present government came to power several associations met the finance minister seeking cash subsidy and moratorium on payment of default loans for a certain period of time.

We are now working on it and it will soon be finalised, a finance ministry official said.

Cabinet Committee Meets on Allowance for Elderly Citizen

A meeting of the cabinet committee was held yesterday with the finance minister in the chair. The meeting took a number of decisions on the safety net programmes.

Social Welfare Minister Enamul Huq Mustafa Shahid told reporters that the meeting decided to prepare a fresh list of elderly citizens eligible for allowances.

He said during the four-party alliance government the list of elderly citizens eligible for allowance was prepared through the Gram Sarker creating a loophole for the ineligible persons to draw the allowances.

From now on, elected representatives i.e. upazila chairmen, vice chairmen, union

parishad chairmen and members throughout the country will prepare the list.

The minister also said the government would increase the amount of allowances for elderly citizens, widows, freedom fighters, and insolvent people in the next budget.

The next budget will also see a rise in the number of recipients of those allowances, he added.

The government will try to provide allowance to every elderly person and insolvent people in the society. List for this purpose is being prepared across the country," Mustafa Shahid said.

He said the unemployed would not be given any allowance but attempts would be made so that they can get jobs easily.

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Production resumes at Barapukuria coal mine

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Coal production resumed at Barapukuria coalmine Saturday midnight without digging the boreholes as Bangladeshi miners agreed to join work.

Official sources said at least

550 metric tons of coal has been extracted as a test case from 1114 coalface after miners joined work following a meeting with the authorities of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BMCML).

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ended after villagers affected by landslides at and around the mining site resisted drilling of boreholes for production of coal from "1114 Face" on February 25 over compensation issue.

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The crisis deepened further when Bangladeshi miners

Friday night called work abstention for an indefinite period protesting their retrenchment.

CMC-XMC, the contractor of Barapukuria, retrenched 800 Bangladeshi miners on Thursday without prior notice, sparking protest from them.

The CMC-XMC also put a

deadline to resume coal production from March 5 otherwise it threatened to stop its activities in Bangladesh.

Following the threat, Forest and Environment State Minister Mostafizur Rahman Fizar visited the coalmine area and held several meetings with the villagers and the miners. He assured the villagers of giving them compensation to overcome the crisis.

The CMC-XMC later agreed

on reinstating the miners.

Sobhan

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secretary COK Moshtaq Ahmed became the new agriculture secretary.

Acting member of the Planning Commission Abdul Malek has been made acting secretary at Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) and acting IMED secretary Dr Mihir Kant Majumder as acting environment and forest secretary.

He said the unemployed would not be given any allowance but attempts would be made so that they can get jobs easily.

The government will try to provide allowance to every elderly person and insolvent people in the society. List for this purpose is being prepared across the country," Mustafa Shahid said.