

Linking Bangladesh to Asian Highway necessary for dev

PM tells Thai foreign minister

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stressed the need for linking Bangladesh to the Asian Highway as she said the country does not want to remain isolated from the regional flow of development.

She made the remarks when the visiting Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya called on her at her office yesterday. They also discussed other issues of common interest, especially trade, business and investment.

"Bangladesh's inclusion in the Asian Highway is necessary for our country's rapid development," she was quoted as saying by her Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

The country was late in getting onto the information superhighway passing through the seabed of the Bay of Bengal and now its joining in the caravan of nations along the road communications superhighway has also long been stuck up in dithering, especially over its routing issue.

The PM also called for Thai investment in every development sector of Bangladesh.

In reply, the Thai foreign minister expressed their interest in making investment in Bangladesh's energy, food processing, agricultural, poultry, and fisheries sectors.

Kasit Piromya also said Thailand can help Bangladesh by providing training facilities for poultry, food processing, and fisheries industries as his country has "vast and long experience in these sectors".

The prime minister and the

Thai foreign minister expressed satisfaction over the return of democracy both in Bangladesh and Thailand after going through political crisis.

Hasina said the people of Bangladesh are now advancing towards peace and prosperity following the Awami League-led Grand Alliance's victory in the last free and fair parliamentary elections held on December 29.

"Without true democracy people cannot establish their rights and a nation cannot achieve its cherished development," she told the Thai FM.

Kasit Piromya hailed the wise and visionary leadership of Hasina as PM and hoped for Bangladesh's rapid and sustainable development during her tenure.

He laid emphasis on closer relationship between the ruling AL and Thailand's ruling Democrat Party for further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries and for the sake of democracy.

The Thai FM expressed his deep shock at the death of over a hundred people in the cyclonic storm Aila and the death of noted nuclear scientist and Hasina's husband Dr MAWazed Miah.

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni and former Ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin were present.



Visiting Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.

WRONG TREATMENT

7-yr-old dies after fighting for life for 21 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven-year old Sanjoy Kunda, who was administered anesthesia instead of antibiotic injection by an untrained nurse at a private clinic in Faridpur district, died at a city hospital yesterday after struggling for 21 days.

Dr Ashis Kumar Chakrabarty, a specialist at the Ayesha Memorial Hospital, declared him dead at around 10:30am.

Sanjoy's paternal uncle, Shankar Kunda, told The Daily Star, "We are now going to our village and will file a case against the nurse, clinic's owner and the duty doctor."

With a minor fracture in his hand, Sanjoy was rushed to Faridpur Sadar Hospital on May 11 and the duty doctor bandaged his hand and



Sanjoy Kunda

referred him to one private Desh Clinic.

Sanjoy, a nursery student and son of Jibon Kundu of Pachhchar Bazar at Shibchar in Madaripur, fractured his arms as he bumped into a tree branch while playing on May 5.

On May 11, when he was supposed to leave the clinic after a minor operation, the on duty nurse of the postoperative ward was supposed to administer him an antibiotic injection as per the doctor's directive, but she administered anesthesia.

"As soon as the nurse, who does not have any academic qualification on nursing, pushed the injection the boy lapsed into unconsciousness," Shankar told The Daily Star. "Sanjoy's father Jibon is a local rice trader who had sold out most of his properties to bear the expenses of the treatment of his son, but we could not save our Sanjoy."

"We had spent about Tk 6 lakh for his treatment at intensive care unit (ICU) of Apollo Hospital as well as Ayesha Memorial Hospital," he said.

HC asks govt to reinstate 18 terminated staffs of Biman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the government to reinstate 18 terminated employees of the Biman Bangladesh Airlines to their positions within two months.

The HC also declared illegal and without lawful authority the government orders terminating them from their services.

HC bench of Justice Tariq-ul-Hakim and Justice M Azizul Haque delivered the verdict upon separate 18 writ petitions filed by the terminated officials and staff of the Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

They were terminated during the BNP-led four-party alliance government and immediate past caretaker government.

The staffs, including Captain Imran Ahmed, filed the writ petitions with the HC challenging the legality of the termination orders.

The HC at different times in 2007, 2008 and this year following the writ petitions issued separate rules upon the government to explain why the termination orders should not be declared illegal.

After hearing the rules the court yesterday delivered the verdict.

'ABSORB 25 EMPLOYEES' Meanwhile, the HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed in its verdict yesterday directed the government to absorb 25 employees of the Directorate of Woman Affairs to its (Directorate) revenue budget from its development project titled 'Woman Support Programme' within two months.

The HC in the verdict also declared illegal the government's action refraining from absorbing 25 employees to the revenue budget, as it (government) earlier absorbed 118 others from the project to the revenue budget.

The deprived employees, including Pinaki Bishwas and Shahinur Bari, filed two separate writ petitions with the HC challenging the legality of the government's action refraining from absorbing them (petitioners) to the revenue budget from the Woman Support Programme under the Directorate of Woman Affairs in 2004.

Advocate Salahuddin Dolon appeared for the petitioners.

2 found dead

A CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police recovered two bodies from where Siddhirganj and Fatullah in Narayanganj yesterday.

The victims were identified as Moktar Hossain, a worker of Prantik Re-rolling Mill in Siddhirganj, and transport worker Rony, 22, son of late Hasan Ali in Fatullah.

Police said Moktar was killed by his roommate and co-worker Milon for only Tk 50.

On the other hand, police recovered the hanging body of Rony from a tree in Fatullah yesterday morning. Police said he went out from his house saying that he would stay out at night.

Police arrested Al-Amin and Jali in this connection.



Was occupies a portion of the CR Dutta Road in the city for long for laying underground sewerage pipes in the area, causing immense suffering to the commuters. The picture was taken yesterday.

ROW OVER JS SEAT ARRANGEMENT

Solution before next session

Says Speaker Abdul Hamid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid has said the dispute over seat arrangement at the House would be resolved before the next session beginning on June 4.

He however did not say what proposal he has given to BNP about the front row seats saying that complexities could arise if he reveals the proposal.

Hamid was talking to journalists yesterday evening after attending an award giving ceremony at the National Press Club organised by Manik Mia Foundation.

"Front row seats are not that much a big matter at all as it would not create any problem in getting the floor if somebody sits in the back row seat. But it is a custom that we give the front row seats to senior leaders. I hope that the problem would be resolved before the next session," he said.

The Speaker has been holding meetings with the chief whips of both the ruling and opposition parties to resolve the seat problem that was created in the last session when the immediate-past JS speaker Jamiruddin Sircar allocated more seats to BNP than they deserved according to the number of seats they won in the election.

About the chance of BNP's boycott of the session, Hamid said they (BNP) had not said yet that they would boycott the session.

"So I think they would join the session with a positive mind," he added.

Commenting on the assistance sought by the parliamentary standing committee to ensure the appearance of the Anti-Corruption bosses before the body, the Speaker said he would take a decision in line with the rules and regulations after he receives a written application from them.

Earlier, Hamid attended the award giving ceremony of Manik Mia Foundation which honoured veteran journalist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury for his outstanding contribution to journalism.

He also handed over a gold medal to Gaffar Chowdhury.

Receiving the award the veteran journalist said Manik Mia believed that religion can never be the criteria of any nationality, and he always fought for secularism and democracy.

Gaffar Chowdhury also urged the sons of Manik Mia to get rid of the family feud over the control of the Ittefaq and treat the newspaper as a national institution rather than a family property.

Manik Mia Foundation Chairman Barrister Mainul Hossain chaired the ceremony while Prof Syed Anwar Hossain of Dhaka University presented the keynote paper highlighting Manik Mia, the founder of the Ittefaq.



Dr Alauddin Ahmed speaks at roundtable at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Quamrul Islam and on his left are Abdur Razzak and Justice Ghulam Rabbani.

Cancel 5th amendment to establish rule of law

Speakers tell roundtable

DU CORRESPONDENT

The 5th amendment to the Constitution should be cancelled to establish rule of law, ensure continuation of democracy and make sure that no army personnel can dream of assuming state power in future, said the speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

They also hoped that the historic High Court (HC) verdict on the amendment will be upheld in the appellate division of the Supreme Court (SC).

"No parliament can ruin the four pillars of the Constitution of 1972. The historic HC verdict on the fifth amendment was given on the basis of this spirit," said State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam. He said if the appellate division of the SC upholds the verdict of the HC on the 5th amendment, it would be possible to return to the Constitution of 1972.

"Army rule in any country is always illegal. One person cannot change the Constitution that was prepared by people's representatives after the liberation war," said Justice Ghulam Rabbani.

People voted in last parliamentary election to see that the Constitution of 1972 is restored, he

added.

The roundtable was organised by online newspaper and news agency INB at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

INB Chairman Barrister Zakir Hossain chaired the discussion where Advocate SM Rezaul Karim presented the keynote paper.

It was moderated by Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamal Dutta.

"Validity to such misdeeds was given at gun-point. Such act in a civilised society is unimaginable," said Dr Alauddin Ahmed, education and political adviser to the prime minister.

Every citizen of Bangladesh has the right to hate and reject the 5th amendment, he added.

Awami League presidium member Abdur Razzak said the Constitution of 1972 was written with the blood of freedom fighters.

Any "illegal government" or "president" cannot change it, he added.

He said those who carried out such activities that go against the spirit of the liberation war should be brought to justice.

The 5th amendment was passed in the Jatiya Sangsad on April 6, 1979.



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