

Dhaka stands firm against terrorism

PM tells UK minister

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina yesterday reaffirmed Bangladesh's strong stance against terrorism saying its lands would not be allowed to be used by terrorists in any way.

Hasina made the remarks when UK Minister for Security and Counter-Terrorism Lord West met her at her official residence Jamuna in the morning.

Mentioning terrorists and terrorism have no boundary and religion, she underscored the importance of regional united efforts to stamp out terrorism from South Asian countries.

Saying that terrorists in

various countries always keep in touch, the premier reiterated her government's firm commitment to root out all types of terrorism from Bangladesh soil.

In response to a request from the PM, the British minister said his country is ready to provide modern anti-terrorism training to Bangladesh's law enforcing agencies.

Lord West told Hasina that he visited some schools in Dhaka and was fascinated seeing the talents of the students and their strong stand against terrorism.

Issues relating to global warming also came up for discussion during the meeting.

The PM informed West that the government would launch capital and maintenance dredging in major rivers of the country to save people from recurring floods.

They also discussed other issues relating to national, regional and international development, and said bilateral relations between Bangladesh and UK would be strengthened in the days to come.

PM's Adviser Tarique Ahmed Siddique, Office Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman, Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad and former ambassador M Zia Uddin were present.

Home minister hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun was admitted to a city clinic after she fell over in the washroom of her official residence and sustained injuries yesterday morning.

Sahara was rushed to the city's Trauma Centre at about 11:00am, sources in the home ministry said. She had hurt her waist.

The home minister underwent necessary check-ups, including X-ray of her waistbone.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque visited her in the hospital.

Killing of RMG workers, setting fire to industries condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties and labour organisations continued to pour out condemnation on the incidents of killing of garment workers on Sunday and setting fire on garment factories yesterday at Ashulia.

These sorts of incidents are putting the main foreign currency-earning sector on verge of destruction, they said demanding proper investigation and trial of the people responsible, adequate compensation to the victims' family and proper treatment of the injured.

It is not possible to ensure discipline in the sector through torture and repression, they said urging the government and owners to resolve problem through discussion.

Leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) said it is not possible to bring peaceful atmosphere in garment factories without meeting lawful demands of the workers.

At a rally at Muktangan, they alleged that the law enforcing agencies and local goons continued torturing on the workers at Ashulia in order to foil their movements to realise their demands.

A reign of terror has been created in the area due to government's indifference, they said.

Leaders of the Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra urged the government to implement the demands of garments workers and to restart the operation of the garments which have been shuttered up following the clashes.

They categorically urged the government to punish the culprits who opened fire on the workers.

Bangladesh Sanjuktta Sramik Federation condemned the incidents of killing of the workers and vandalism and setting fire on a garment factory.

Condemning the incident HC of the issue through an affidavit, as the court issued a rule upon the government in this regard on March 11, when the law remained ineffective.

The high court in its suo moto rule asked the government to explain under which legal authority the judicial magistrates are functioning after February 24, 2009, as the tenure of the CrPC (amendment) ordinances separating the judiciary expired on the day.

In its reply, the government also said it has enacted the CrPC (amendment) Act 2009 in line with two ordinances the immediate past caretaker government promulgated to separate the judiciary from

8 govt officials sued on graft charges

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A case was filed with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court against eight former and present government officials on charges of misappropriating money.

Former director general (DG) of the department of post Abdus Salam filed the case stating that the accused had misappropriated salaries of 152 employees of the department - Tk 18 lakh - by making forged documents in 2006.

The accused are additional secretary of the ministry of post and telecommunications ABM Khorsheed Alam, joint secretary Dilruba Begum, additional director general of the department of the post Abdur Rashid, former director general (DG) Alauddin Ahmed, former secretary to the ministry Mahmud Hasan Mansur, former senior assistant secretary Aftab Uddin Mondol, former home secretary Mohammad Mohsin and former accounts officer of the department of post Krishna Kumar Gupta.

After a hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Ismail Hossain ordered a judicial inquiry into the matter and CMM AKM Enamul Haque assigned Metropolitan Magistrate Moazzem Hossain to submit a report by November 10 after the judicial inquiry.



Democratic Left Alliance, CPB and Workers Party jointly stage a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting killing of garment workers in Ashulia.

Tk 184cr DU budget proposed

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) yesterday proposed a budget of Tk 184 crore for the 2009-10 fiscal year, with an allocation of only 3.05 percent of the budget for carrying out researches.

DU Treasurer Prof Mijanur Rahman placed the proposed budget for 2009-10 fiscal and the revised budget for 2008-09 fiscal on the first day of the two-day annual senate session of the university with Tk 10.20 crore deficit.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique chaired the session.

The lion share of the proposed budget, Tk 144.46 crore (78.52 percent), will be spent on salary and pension of the teachers and other staffs while only Tk 562.90 lakh has been allocated for research.

The allocation for research, however, has increased this year. It was Tk 158.40 lakh in the revised budget of 2008-09 fiscal.

Tk 22.95 crore (12.47 percent of the total amount) has been allocated for meeting the expenses of education support sectors.

In the general supportive sector, Tk 20.99 crore has been allocated in the proposed budget.

Of the total budget, Tk 153.80 crore will come from the University Grants Commission (UGC) while Tk 20 crore will be generated from the university's internal income, Prof Mijanur said.

Prof Arefin stressed the need for introducing a separate pay scale for DU teachers and increasing other allowances, terming the existing facilities poor in comparison with the

neighbouring countries.

The incident of August 2007 was a huge shock to the DU family. Four teachers were put behind the bars centering a trivial incident. Our security, freedom of expression and the 1973 Ordinance of the university have come under threat following the incident," he added.

"We have reached a consensus that August 23 is a black day for the university," said the DU VC.

Prof Mijanur said the main reason behind the Tk 10.20 crore deficit in the proposed budget is additional allocations for teachers' researches and digitalisation.

The newly elected members of the 104-member senate body participated in the session.

Zia proclaimed independence

Claim BNP leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leaders at a discussion yesterday said late president Ziaur Rahman proclaimed independence of Bangladesh and no-one can change the truth.

The discussion titled 'Debate on Proclaimer of Independence and the High Court Verdict' was organised by National Youth Forum at the National Press Club in the city.

BNP standing committee member Barrister Moudud Ahmed said the issue is a political one and it cannot be resolved through a verdict of the court.

Moudud said the issue is now waiting for a verdict from the appellate division but the fact that Zia is the proclaimer of independence cannot be changed through any verdict.

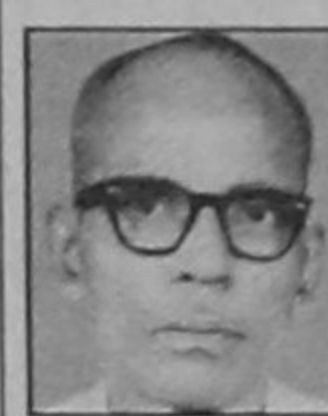
He also said giving recognition to Zia about his proclamation of independence does not undermine Bangabandhu who should be kept above this debate.

"But Awami League always put him on controversy," he added.

The meeting was also addressed by opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Faroque, former minister Nazmul Huda and BNP leader Wing Commander (retd) M Hamidullah Khan.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



Chief Shahidul Islam, passed away due to old-age complications at his residence at Paschim Bakolia DC Road in Chittagong early yesterday at the age of 65.

He left behind his wife, five sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at Chaitanyagoligra, and inam.

Aminur Rahman Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Aminur Rahman Khan, former deputy secretary of the then Pakistani government, passed away at the Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday at the age of 89, says a press release.

Aminur Rahman, also the founder chairman of Bangladesh Welding Electrodes, hailed from Dupuria village in Nagarpur, Tangail.

He left behind his wife, three daughters, one son and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held after Asr prayers today at Gulshan Azad mosque.

Alhaj Md Abdul Hasib

METRO DESK



Alhaj Md Abdul Hasib, father of Shahjahan S Hasib, director (procurement) of United Airways Bangladesh Limited, passed away in Sylhet on Sunday at the age of 80, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and four daughters.

Habibul Bashar

METRO DESK

Habibul Bashar, a former government official, passed away at New York Presbyterian University Hospital, USA on May 25, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, daughter and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried in New York.

Qulkhwani



The qulkhwani of Shahadat Ali, father of Md Mohsin Sarkar and Md Masud Sarkar, proprietors of Mohsin Electronics, will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani, doa and milad mahfil will be held and food will be distributed among the destitute at village Kalni in Gazipur after Zohr prayers.

Constitutional recognition of indigenous people demanded

Freedom fighter Kakan Bibi honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kakan Hennyata, who is also known as Kakan Bibi, an indigenous female freedom fighter from the Khasi community, has every right to be aggrieved.

Although she fought in as many as 20 battles with the Pakistani occupation forces and supplied arms and food to the freedom fighters in Sector No 5 during the liberation war in 1971, her contribution to the country's independence had never been acknowledged.

And she is no exception; the entire indigenous community is being badly treated in the country. They are being evicted from their own land, let alone acknowledging someone's contribution.

"I am Kakan Bibi. Everything seems beautiful here, everything seems okay and very good. I thank you all. That's it," this is all that an aggrieved Kakan Bibi had to say after receiving the Sidhu-Kanhu-Fulmoni Award at a

reception at Engineers' Institution in the city yesterday.

The way Kakan Bibi was ignored bears testimony to the story of deprivation and marginalisation the indigenous people have undergone in the country over the years.

Kakan Bibi, 82, received the award at a daylong ceremony organised to mark the 154th anniversary of Santal Hool (rebellion).

Speakers at the programme reiterated their demands for constitutional recognition of the indigenous people, introducing primary education in their mother tongue, recognition of their land rights and return of the lands that had been grabbed.

"The indigenous people's right to land has not been ensured till date. It is not only a matter of shame but also sheer disregard for humanity," said noted academic Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid in his speech as the chief guest.

He handed over the award - a crest, Tk 20000 and a cita-

tion, to Kakan Bibi.

"Today we are recognising someone who had helped us win the liberation war being a successor of Sidhu-Kanhu-Fulmoni," said literature Selina Hossain, who presided over the award giving ceremony.

The daylong programme was divided into four sessions. Earlier, a discussion on 'Constitutional recognition of Adivasi: precondition to build a democratic and religion impartial society' was held.

The daylong programme organised by Bangladesh Adivasi Adhikar Andolon ended with placing wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar following a cultural function staged by different indigenous communities.

The speakers at the programme demanded withdrawal of fake cases filed against the indigenous people, separate land commission for indigenous people on plain land and immediate arrest of the people involved in the attack on the indigenous people in Naogaon.

Afzal Gonotontri Party president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Afzal and Nurur Rahman Selim were elected president and general secretary of the central committee of Gonotontri Party, says a press release.

They were elected at the biennale national convention of the party at Diploma Engineers Institute auditorium in the city on Saturday.

Members of the panel of presidents are Arash Ali, Mahmudur Rahman Babu, Dr Md Shahidullah, Advocate Gaznafar Ali Chowdhury, Bhupendra Bhawmik Dolon, Rezaul Karim Lebu, Kamrul Ahsan Khan Parvez, Abul Hashem Mia, and Abdul Bari Zoardar.

MARITIME BOUNDARY Talks with Myanmar next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The next round of bilateral meeting between Bangladesh and Myanmar on demarcation of maritime boundary is likely to be held in Myanmar next month, said Foreign Minister Dipu Moni in parliament yesterday.

In response to lawmakers' queries, the foreign minister said the government has initiated various measures to establish Bangladesh's claim over the continental shelf.

Answering to BNP lawmaker Harunur Rashid's query, Dipu Moni said measures had been taken immediately after the country's independence to settle disputes over the maritime boundary with Myanmar and the negotiation continued till 1986.

"After a gap of 22 years, the bilateral technical meeting resumed March 2008 - two of the meetings with Myanmar were held in Dhaka and one in Myanmar," she added.

Dipu Moni, in response to the queries of BNP lawmaker

Rasheda Begum Hira and Awami League lawmaker Tohura Ali, mentioned various measures taken by the government to establish country's claims over the continental shelf of the Bay of Bengal.

She said the government had not decided to conduct survey of the sea area, which remained disputed with India and Myanmar.

Lt Mainul buried

METRO DESK

Lt Shah Md Mainul Haque of Bangladesh Army, who died in a shell explosion firing at School of Infantry and Tactics in Lalalabad Cantonment, Sylhet on Sunday, was buried at his village home at Lohagara in Narail after namaz-e-janaza at Chopper's Den, Dhaka Cantonment yesterday, says an ISPR press release.

Chief of Army Staff General Md Abdul Mubeen attended the namaz-e-janaza and laid wreath at the coffin of Mainul.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:50pm today and rises at 6:15am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.2 degrees Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest of 24 at Cox's Bazar.

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	32.2	26.0	92	79
Chittagong	29.5	25.0	89	96
Rajshahi	36.2	26.6	76	100
Khulna	29.0	26.0	93	90
Barisal	30.4	27.0	88	89
Sylhet	30.1	25.4	85	88
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.0	89	88



Seminar

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum organises a seminar titled 'Ratification of ILO Convention - Its importance: Context Bangladesh'. Venue: Bilia auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Seminar

Accident Research Institute, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) organises a seminar on 'Road traffic accidents involving hazardous materials'. Venue: Civil Engineering Building. Time: 5:00pm.

Roundtable

The weekly Shapthahik organises a roundtable on education policy. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

Mass-line Media Centre organises a seminar on the role of women members of union parishad. Venue: IDB Bhaban. Time: 10:00am.

Graduation ceremony

The graduation ceremony for the O' Level students of 2008-09 batch of Scholastica School will be held. Venue: STM Hall. Time: 4:00pm.