



PM asks to rein in essentials prices

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the ministry and authorities concerned to take immediate steps to keep the prices of essentials within the buying capacity of commoners during the upcoming holy month of Ramadan.

She also directed the authorities of the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh to import essentials as soon as possible and supply those to the open market ahead of Ramadan.

The PM further instructed the communications ministry and the city corporations to ensure proper management of traffic movement during the month of fasting and religious festival.

"Our main aim is to ensure people's maximum welfare. We will do everything

so that people do not suffer from anything during the upcoming holy Ramadan," Hasina said at the 31st meeting of her cabinet.

Briefing reporters in the conference room of press information department on the cabinet meeting, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, said the cabinet congratulated Hasina on her election as the vice-chair of the Nam for the next three years.

Hasina told her cabinet colleagues that Nam needs to be more organised and strengthened for betterment of the developing and least developed countries.

She said if the Nam could be made



more organised, Bangladesh, like other member-countries, would also be benefited economically.

Azad said the cabinet approved a proposal for relaxing the conditions of attaining requisite qualifications by the teachers of non-government registered primary

schools.

According to the new rules, the teachers having job tenure of 17-25 years will not need post-graduate certificate in education (PGCE) to be considered as qualified as teachers.

On this issue, Hasina observed that

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The Daily Star, Prothom Alo bin Beximco allegations

In a press conference yesterday, Vice Chairman of Beximco Group of Companies Mr Salman F Rahman branded The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo as the architects of the "Minus Two" theory during emergency rule.

We categorically deny the allegation and reject it as laughable.

Salman Rahman made several other vague and sweeping accusations against The Daily Star and Prothom Alo. He claimed that these two papers have been involved in a persistent malicious campaign against his company and have indulged in unethical journalism to

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Salman hits out at Star, Alo

Claims the newspapers behind minus-2 attempt; reacts angrily to loan-default reports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Salman F Rahman, vice-chairman of Beximco Group, yesterday accused The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo of attempting to implement the 'minus-two formula' during the recent emergency rule.

The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo both brushed aside the allegation terming it laughable.

The Beximco boss also accused the two newspapers of launching a 'malicious propaganda' against the corporate group.

"We have noted a vicious propaganda being unleashed by two national newspapers -- Prothom Alo and The Daily Star -- against one of the biggest industrial conglomerates in Bangladesh," Salman said reading out a written statement at a media briefing in the capital.

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Law suit mulled to gag media

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Vice-chairman of Beximco group of companies Salman F Rahman said yesterday he is going to file cases against The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo for running news reports against his companies.

Replying to questions at a press briefing in the city yesterday, Salman said he is in the process of suing the two newspapers. "Our lawyers are studying the issue. We will file cases not just to show-off. We will fight the case vigorously and win," he said.

In the past, both newspapers were repeatedly subjected to harassment in the name of litigation for carrying out journalistic responsibilities professionally and ethically.

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PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Workers build a colossal hoarding at the busy GEC intersection of Chittagong City considerably high above the ground with no safety gear whatsoever.

Plan, one authority can save rivers

Leading environmentalists suggest JS body

RASHIDUL HASAN

Leading environmentalist organisations and personalities yesterday made a set of recommendations including adopting a comprehensive action plan and forming a single authority to save the rivers and environment.

Representatives of Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela), Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, and The Daily Star editor and publisher made the recommendations at a views exchange meeting with a parliamentary sub-committee at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The special sub-committee on forest and environment invited them to hear their views and recommendations on means to save the rivers and environment from pollution and encroachment.

Following the meeting, the sub-committee members said they will include the recommendations in their final report to be prepared by next month.

Sub-committee chief Awami League law-

● Form a single river authority

● Punish offenders adequately

● Make existing laws tougher and implement strictly

● Take coordinated policy

maker Saber Hossain Chowdhury said they will prepare a model to give new life to the polluted and dying rivers in light with revival of the Hugli in Kolkata and the Thames in London.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will give technical assistance in this initiative, he added.

The parliamentary standing committee on forest and environment ministry formed the four-member sub-committee to work out causes of the problems and solutions to save the rivers and environment.

The move followed a series of reports published in The Daily Star that showed the dire conditions of the rivers due to pollution and encroachment.

Bapa Vice-president Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed recommended that the sub-committee take a concerted action plan and create a single organisation, which will look after environment and rivers.

"No single organisation is responsible to pollute rivers and environment. Tannery

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CPB RALLY BLAST CASE Ex-Huji chief out on bail

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Maulana Sheikh Abdus Salam, former chief of banned militant outfit Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) who was arrested in connection with the 2001 CPB rally blast case, was released on bail yesterday from Dhaka Central Jail.

Jail officials said they received an order for his release Sunday from the Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, which issued the bail order.

"Receiving the bail order, we reported it to different intelligence agencies for checking as Salam allegedly has links with a banned militant organisation. On receiving clearance from the intelligence agencies we released him around 3:00pm," Deputy



Sheikh Abdus Salam

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Jalil may quit AL post today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Being frustrated over the party high command "not letting him do his duties", Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil is likely to resign from his party post today, two days before AL national council.

Sources said the veteran AL leader might come up with his decision at a press conference at his Gulshan home today at 11:00am. Jalil was elected the AL general secretary at the party's last council on December 26, 2002.

Jalil sent a message to AL President and Prime Minister

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AUGUST 21 ATTACK Laskar leader had links to grenades

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) personnel suspect detained Laskar-e-Taiyeba leader Indian national Mufti Obaidullah's possible links to the grenades supplied by Moulana Tajuddin for using in August 21 attacks at Awami League rally.

The DB officials also suspect Obaidullah knew about Ramna Batamul blast and Udichi blast in Jessore.

According to sources, Laskar-e-Taiyeba had supplied the grenades through Bangladesh Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) leader Moulana Tajuddin, brother of detained former BNP deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, as he is closely linked to the Pakistan based militant organisation.

After the August 21 grenade attack, Tajuddin went into hiding and now he is believed to have been staying in South Africa. However, his brother Pintu remains detained in connection with the AL rally blast.

Deputy Commissioner Monirul Islam of DB-South told The

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Ministers asked again to deliver PM tells colleagues to get admin work efficiently

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed frustration over performance of some ministers and hinted that a reshuffle is round the corner.

At a regular cabinet meeting, she also urged her colleagues to step up efforts to bring dynamism to the administration. Besides, she asked them to exercise caution when speaking to the media, said meeting sources.

The prime minister said an evaluation of the work of ministers and state ministers was already underway. The findings would be reflected in the reshuffle that might come after Awami League's national council on July 24, added the sources.

Requesting anonymity, a minister said, "A few of us may be replaced by new faces. The prime minister wants a redistribution of jobs to put us through our paces."

Talking to The Daily Star in the evening, an adviser to PM

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স্বপ্নকে নিয়ে এলো হাতের মুঠোয় প্রাইম ব্যাংক-এর কনজিউমার লোন

আপনার প্রয়োজনীয় সব গৃহপণ্য ক্রয়ের জন্য প্রাইম ব্যাংকের কাছ থেকে আপনি লোন পাবেন খুব দ্রুত আর সহজেই। লোন পরিশোধের শর্তও খুব সহজ। তাহলে আজ থেকেই শুরু হোক এক এক করে স্বপ্ন পূরণের পাল।

জীবনটা হয়ে উঠুক আরও সুখময়।

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Story of a New Dawn

Aktel - The Daily Star englishinschools comes to Rangpur

Aktel-The Daily Star has embarked upon a voyage to ensure brighter future for the students of Bangladesh. EIS project will take English learning opportunities to 1000 secondary schools across the country and open up a world of opportunities for the students.

EIS is aimed at making English learning more accessible, easy and enjoyable to everyone.

Initially, 1000 secondary schools from across the country covering all 64 districts have been selected for Aktel-The Daily Star englishinschools project to provide with the following support:

- 3 copies of The Daily Star will be delivered to all the selected schools, 5 days a week, free
- Special full page weekly EIS supplement in The Daily Star dedicated to English learning
- Interactive programmes, activities, competitions for both students and teachers will be held at national and regional levels to encourage English learning

EIS Inauguration of Rangpur zone: Today, July 21, 2009

Let's make the most of today for a brighter future



The Daily Star

