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Raise realistic fund for climate battle

Hasina asks int'l community to wake up to reality, reject all myopic practices

UNB, Stockholm

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for establishing a realistic fund for Bangladesh and other least developed and developing countries for their climate change requirements.

Addressing the European Development Days 2009 events, she said the financing to the climate victim nations should not be loans, and the scale

of finance should be revised with changes in the adaptation needs.

She also urged the international community to reject all myopic, self-centred discords, reject the culture of excess and waste, to embrace one another's responsibility, burden, prosperity, and live in harmony within the planet's capacity.

Sheikh Hasina yesterday morning (local time) addressed the plenary session of the 4th European Development Days,

titled 'Climate Change: The Road to Copenhagen and Beyond', at the Victoria Hall in the Swedish capital.

Hasina, as the third speaker of the session in presence of government representatives, Nobel Laureates, international experts, economists and environmentalists, said the fund should start operating from 2010 onwards to 2020 in the first phase, and then beyond.

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Grenade recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Security personnel recovered an unexploded grenade from the Rajbari Stadium in the town yesterday.

Assistant sub-inspector Yasmin Begum of Kotwali police station said a police team recovered the grenade from gallery shed of the stadium and later it was neutralised.

Quoting locals, police said some activists of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sangahti Samity (PCJSS) and Pahari Chhatra Parishad were waiting at the spot for a dead body of one of their activists.

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Money now rules JMB recruitment

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh is now providing money along with motivation to entice new recruits in the banned outfit.

In the past, only motivation would do the trick but now it has changed its recruitment strategy, said law enforcers dealing with the militants.

The dawati (invitation) unit of the outfit first select young simpletons from ultra poor families in rural areas or by visiting mosques. After that the militants get close to the target people and start discussing about Jihad.

"If the targets respond positively the JMB operatives start giving them some religious

books, particularly those on Jihad. They also give them a certain monthly amount to gain their confidence and slowly make them dependent on the outfit," said a senior official of the Rapid Action Battalion intelligence wing.

"At one stage the targets become infatuated with the JMB," he said, adding that some of the recently detained militants told them that the outfit would spend a monthly amount of Tk 500 per target.

He, however, could not say exactly how many targets JMB has across the country.

Sub-Inspector of Boalia Police Station Hafizur Rahman, who is investigating the case filed following the arrest of seven JMB

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August 15 culprits attacked Taposh Says PM

UNB, Stockholm

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina said those who were behind the August 15, 1975 tragedy, hurled bomb on Barrister Fazle Noor Taposh to kill him.

Addressing a reception arranged by Bangladeshi expatriates in Sweden at the Hallunda Folkethus in the Swedish capital on Friday evening, she categorically said whoever the attackers, they would be identified through fair investigation and brought to book immediately.

"When Taposh was only three-year old, his father and mother were brutally killed by the defeated force in 1975. Taposh, after years of hard work, established himself as a barrister. But the evil force is

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PHOTO: COURTESY

With her infant in her lap, Mehnaz Rashid, daughter of convict Lt Col (retd) Khondker Abdur Rashid in the Bangabandhu murder case, is being taken to a Dhaka court yesterday.

Zia helped Rashid's family after killings

Says Mehnaz after arrest

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Late president Ziaur Rahman used to pay \$100 a day to the family of Lt Col (retd) Khondker Abdur Rashid as hotel expenses in Thailand on their way to Libya following the assassination of Bangabandhu on August 15 in 1975, Rashid's eldest daughter yesterday disclosed.

Wife of Bangabandhu's self-proclaimed killer Rashid and his four daughters were sent to Thailand in late September 1975 where they stayed in a hotel for several months, said Assistant Commissioner Ali Akbar quoting Rashid's daughter Mehnaz Rashid.

She divulged the information to Detective Branch officials during a preliminary

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Col Rashid's daughter held for blast link

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested the eldest daughter of Col (retd) Khandaker Abdur Rashid, a fugitive condemned to death in Bangabandhu murder case, for suspected links to Wednesday's bomb attack on Awami League lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh.

The Detective Branch picked up Khandaker Mehnaz Rashid from her father's residence at Gulshan-2 in the

morning. Later in the day, a court placed her on a five-day remand.

Mehnaz is the second to be arrested from among the families of convicted killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Earlier on Thursday, police held Kamrul Haque Swapan, younger brother of Major (retd) Shariful Haq Dalim.

Both Dalim and Rashid have been holed up abroad since the trial of August 15 killings began in 1996. Earlier in that

year, AL came to power and Sheikh Hasina became the prime minister.

DB sources said Mehnaz has been involved in reorganising Freedom Party, an outfit formed by the self-confessed killers of Bangabandhu and most of his family members.

She contested the parliamentary polls in 2001 and 2008 from Chandina of Comilla on Freedom Party ticket.

Metropolitan Magistrate Tania Kamal

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POWER, COAL PLANTS

Road shows mulled to woo investors

STAR REPORT

The government plans to stage road shows in London, New York and Singapore in early December to attract investors for several of its large power projects including 2,000-megawatt coal-fired power plants.

The Power Development Board (PDB) sent a proposal in this regard to the power ministry earlier this month suggesting the show may be held in mid-November. "But now it looks like the shows cannot be held before early December," said a top PDB official.

The power projects include four 500 MW coal-fired projects, Meghnaghat phase two 450 MW, Bibiyana phase two 450 MW and Bhola

150 MW projects.

Officials at the shows would inform prospective investors about the government's plans to set up more plants in the proposed Savar leather processing zone and Jaidevpur high-tech park.

These plants would require more than \$3 billion investment.

"The road shows in December will be the power sector's largest overseas shows ever. Previously the government held a road show in Dhaka for the 450 MW Meghnaghat-1 plant back in 1996-97," said the official.

The road show will give prospective investors information about the government's

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TORTURE ON JOURNO

Prosecute Rab men Rights body asks government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh government should prosecute the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) officers who arrested and tortured FM Masum, a journalist of the daily New Age, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said yesterday.

In a statement, the New York-based watchdog said the new government had promised to put an end to abuses by the paramilitary law enforcement agency long implicated in tortures and the extra judicial killings termed "crossfire". But the government is yet to take any action in this regard.

"The Bangladesh government should move from promises to action and finally hold the security forces accountable for their abuses," said Brad Adams, HRW Asia director. "This government needs to show that it is different from its predecessors."

According to a statement Masum made to the HRW and newspapers, some Rab officials had picked him up from

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