

JS to be made centre of welfare activities

PM tells UK delegation

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told a British delegation comprising lawmakers that her government is deeply committed to making the Jatiya Sangsad a centre of all public-welfare activities.

She sought the UK government's cooperation in providing offices and other necessary supports to Bangladeshi MPs for their more effective role in the country's democracy.

"As a rare example in the history of Bangladesh's parliamentary practice, chairmen of seven parliamentary standing committees have been selected from the opposition side," Hasina said.

She said Bangladesh can

enrich its parliamentary practices through learning from the glorious history of the Westminster democracy of the United Kingdom.

She also sought more cooperation from the British government and its Department for International Development (DFID) for attaining the development targets in Bangladesh's socio-economic sectors.

The prime minister made the remarks and request when the nine-member delegation of British International Development Committee (IDC) paid a courtesy call on her at her Office yesterday.

Deputy Press Secretary to the PM Mahbul Hoque

Shakil briefed newsmen after the meeting.

At the outset of the meeting, the British delegation recalled the supreme sacrifice of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members in attaining the country's independence, sovereignty and establishing democracy.

Hasina said the government has taken the massive victory in the general election as a great responsibility and is working relentlessly for poverty alleviation, women empowerment, ensuring quality education and health facilities for the people of all walks of life.

She said the British govern-

ment and its DFID can help the government with more assistance for achieving the development goals.

She also called for more British investment in Bangladesh.

In reply, the delegation assured the PM of providing all cooperation in attaining the socioeconomic development targets of the country.

The British delegation mentioned the contributions of Bangladeshi expatriates to development of the United Kingdom.

John Battle, Hugh Bailey, Malcolm Bruce, Nigel Evans, Mark Hendrick, Mark Lancaster, Viendra Sharma, Marsh Singh and Andrew Stunell were on the delegation.



OIC Secretary General Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.

Babar will not be tortured

AG assures HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Mahbub Alam yesterday assured the High Court that former state minister for home affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar will not be tortured during interrogation on remand in August 21 grenade attack case.

Babar is now in the custody of police, who will ensure the security of his life, he said.

He said this while placing submissions during the hearing of two writ petitions filed by Babar.

Following the assurance of the attorney general, the High Court bench of Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice M A M N O R A H M A N adjourned the hearing on the petitions till November 11.

Babar's wife Tahmina Zaman on November 1 filed the petitions with the High Court on behalf of her husband for directions upon the government to admit him to hospital and interrogate him at the jail gate in the August 21 grenade attack case.

In a writ petition it has been stated that Babar is seriously ill and the home ministry has informed the jail authorities and his wife about this. So, Babar should be admitted to hospital for treatment.

The other writ petition sought direction from the High Court upon the authorities concerned to interrogate Babar at the jail gate since he is very ill.

Earlier on Friday, Criminal Investigation Department took Babar on remand a day after Dhaka First Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ehsanul Haque directed the investigation officer of the case to take him on a five-day remand.

On October 26, Babar was shown arrested in the August 21 grenade attack case.

Protect integrity of Kishoreganj

JP MP Chunnunur urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) lawmaker Mujiburul Haque Chunnunur yesterday called on the government to take a step immediately to protect integrity of Kishoreganj district and calm down the agitating locals who waged different movements against split of the district into two.

"We, five lawmakers, including the speaker and the LGRD minister, do not know anything about the move to turn Bhairab into a district, splitting Kishoreganj. Some 30 lakh people protested the move by calling hartals and staging demonstrations," he said.

Taking floor on a point of order in parliament, Chunnunur, who was elected from Kishoreganj-3, said an assistant secretary of the president's office sent a letter to the cabinet division to declare Bhairab, currently an upazila under Kishoreganj, a district.

Bhairab is the home town of President Zillur Rahman. The JP lawmaker said law and order situation has been deteriorated in the areas and it might be worsened further, causing embarrassment for the government.

"We want a united Kishoreganj and the government should make it clear that boundary of the district will not be split," Chunnunur said.

The cabinet on October 12 formed a committee to examine how Bhairab can be made a separate district with five upazilas -- Bhairab, Bajitpur, Katiyadi, Kuliarchar and Nikli.

Taking floor on point of order, Awami League lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta said the nation would get rid of the stigma once the trial of the jail killing case would be completed.

"Zia [former president Ziaur Rahman] was the main anti-hero of the jail killing incident," Suranjit said, referring to Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal lawmaker Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal's remark on Zia on Monday.

The AL lawmaker said extortion, manipulation of tenders, state-sponsored criminal activities will not be curbed until the trial of the killing of four national leaders who were brutally assassinated on November 3, 1975 behind bars.

Bill seeks to stop gas plundering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bill was placed in the parliament yesterday with a view to enacting a law to impose control on transmission, distribution, supply, storage and unauthorised use of gas.

Individual or organisation violating the act would be punished according to the provisions in the bill. For unauthorised use of gas or setting up CNG refuelling stations without permission or creating obstacle in gas distribution, an individual or organisation would be awarded imprisonment ranging from three months to a maximum of five years.

With imprisonment for different terms, an individual or organisation can be fined between Tk 10,000 and Tk 10 lakh for violating the law.

State Minister for Energy Power and Mineral Resources Brig Gen (ret'd) Mohammad Enamul Haque placed the

bill, which was later sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the respective ministry.

"Activities based on natural gas are increasing everyday but there is no law on transmission, distribution, supply and storage of gas and on ensuring its proper utilisation. Even after forming the energy regulatory commission, necessity for enacting a law has become imperative," the state minister said in the statement tagged with the bill.

He said enacting the law has also become a must for ensuring collection of gas bill and creating competitive market for gas with participation of individuals and private sector.

"I hope with this law enacted, the overall development in gas sector will be ensured and gas distribution to consumer level will be managed effectively," he added.

On supply and storage of

gas, a provision of the bill says an individual or organisation issued licence by the energy regulatory commission can run business of gas supply and store it. But they will have to inform the commission in detail before initiating the task, said the provision.

The bill has a provision to keep the consumers from harassment by assigned officials for collecting gas bill. The provision says a consumer can file complaint with the energy regulatory commissioner if any official harassed him/her.

The proposed law empowered the energy regulatory commission to issue, renew and cancel licences for gas business. Formulating rules the commission will also fix tariff for gas transmission.

A provision in the bill says individuals with licences of the commission can set up pipelines for transmission, distribution, supply and storage of gas.

Govt conspiring against BNP council: Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is conspiring to prevent BNP from holding its national council on time, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain alleged yesterday.

But their attempts will not succeed, as people will resist, he added.

"Amendments to the Representation of the People Order were brought to keep his party out of politics," he told reporters at party's central office in Nayapalton.

He also accused the government of attempting to destroy the party.

The Jatiya Sangsad passed the amended RPO on Monday that made the submission of party constitution, approved in the council session, mandatory for all

political parties and mentioned parties failing to meet this requirement will lose registration.

Delwar said, "The provision of cancelling registration was kept in the RPO in a bid to oust BNP from its political position. The past caretaker government attempted to split BNP with the help of military, and present government is continuing to further the process."

Besides, he said, BNP has announced to hold its national council on December 8 to elect new leadership, and it will make the council a success by foiling all conspiracies.

The BNP leader also said, election commission and the government are trying to cancel his party's registra-

tion through the legal loopholes, and the provision of cancelling registration was passed in parliament ignoring objections to it.

Caretaker government initiated the amendment in a view to control the political parties and that is why they were opposing it from the beginning, he mentioned.

"It is a matter of shame for the nation that the prime minister herself is putting blame on BNP before any investigation is carried out. It goes against law when someone is blamed without having any investigation into the incident," he said condemning bomb attack on ruling party lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh.

He also claimed that such an act could hinder the proper investigation.



Prof Muzafer Ahmad speaks at a discussion on the national education policy at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Syed Abul Maksud and on his left are Biren Sikdar MP and Mahmudur Rahman Manna. (Story on Page 16)

OIC SECRETARY GENERAL MEETS PRESIDENT Zillur seeks int'l support to alleviate poverty

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the international communities to extend more support and assistance to Bangladesh for fully freeing the country from the curse of poverty and illiteracy.

"International support and assistance is needed to implement government agenda in making the country free from poverty and illiteracy," he said while visiting Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu met him at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, the president told the OIC secretary general that Bangladesh remains fully committed to

promoting the causes of the Islamic Ummah and the Charter of the OIC.

Mentioning that Bangladesh is one of the countries worst affected by the adverse effects of climate change, he said the issue of climate change needs to be addressed at different international forums with more importance.

He said the ongoing effort of OIC would discourage the vested attempts to associate Islam with terrorism, human rights violation and any such crimes committed in the name of Islam.

"Bangladesh always condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," he told the OIC chief executive.

Dr Ihsanoglu apprised the president that the OIC is no more only a religious forum rather presently it turned itself into the second-largest political organisation of the world after the United Nations.

"Presently the USA and other European countries are showing their keen interest to be observers of the OIC, and the USA has already appointed a special envoy to OIC," he said.

Dr Ihsanoglu led a six-member delegation, including OIC Director General (Cultural & Social Affairs) Ambassador Hemayetuddin and Director General (Science & Technology) Dr Razley M Noreddin.

Lottery for Purbachal, Uttara plots today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) will hold the formal draw of lotteries of Purbachal New Town Project and Uttara Model Town Project at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city today.

The draws for the third phase of Purbachal and Uttara plots will be held at 9:30am to pick the names of the winners, says a press release yesterday.

In the lottery of Purbachal, there will be one category -- journalist while the lottery for Uttara project, there will be seven categories -- journalist, foreign exchanges earner, freedom fighter, artist/sportsman, industrialist and businessman, private jobholder and lawyer.

25 tolas gold, Tk 70,000 looted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of robbers looted 25 tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 70,000 in cash and five cellphone sets from a house in the city's Uttara yesterday.

They also beat up Kardar Ahmed, the house owner, as he protested.

Police said a gang of nine to ten armed robbers broke into the house of Engineer Kardar Ahmed at Uttara Sector-5 at around 3:30pm and looted the valuables holding the inmates hostage at gunpoint.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Begum Hamida Banu, mother of Syed Md Qaiser, former state minister, and Syed Md Faisal, managing director of Saiham Group of Industries, passed away at a city hospital on Saturday at the age of 93, says a press release.

She was buried at her family graveyard at Noyapara in Habiganj.

A doa mahfil will be held at her residence (House- 34, Road -136, Gulshan I) in the city after Maghrib prayers today seeking blessing for her.

Telemedicine services for diabetics launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Diabetic patients of Bangladesh will now be able to get their telemedicine services through their mobile phones with bluetooth or wireless technology.

Telemedicine Reference Centre Ltd (TRCL) in collaboration with Entra Health Systems of the US launched a mobile health (mHealth) service for diabetic patients under the brand name 'Amcare'.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad formally launched the service at a city hotel yesterday.

Introducing the telemedicine service, TRCL Managing Director Dr Sikder M Zakir explained that mHealth is an intensive diabetes home management programme done with the help of everyone's trusted and convenient tool -- the mobile phone.

The first of its kind in Asia, mHealth includes routine home test of blood glucose level with a bluetooth glucometer connected to a mobile phone.

After the use of glucometer, the result of blood glucose test will be transferred via mobile phone to the Amcare Diabetes Call Centre.

The features include several other steps such as SMS alert if blood glucose level is abnormal. Depending on the status of the blood test, the call centre representatives will contact the particular patients.

There are also over-the-

phone doctor's consultation services if needed and for further intervention, appointments will be made with doctors.

Another important feature is Home Care Service which includes blood sample collection and delivery of diabetes supplies to the patient's home.

The service with bluetooth, manufactured by Entra, will be provided for a monthly membership fee of Tk 700. For

blue tooth added with home care service, the fee is Tk 1,250.

National Prof Dr MR Khan, also chairman of TRCL, Prof AK Azad Khan, president of Bangladesh Diabetic Association, Richard C Strobbridge, CEO of Entra Health Systems, and Jon Danilowicz, acting deputy chief of mission, US embassy, also spoke.



Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 6:18pm today and rises at 7:07am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 17.2 degrees Celsius at Dinajpur.

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	33.9	23.8	62	58
Chittagong	32.4	24.3	71	64
Rajshahi	33.8	20.8	90	82
Khulna	33.5	23.2	75	73
Barisal	33.0	22.0	83	90
Sylhet	32.7	23.5	63	76
Cox's Bazar	34.5	25.2	69	68



Seminar

International Organisation for Migration in collaboration with ICDDR,B organises a seminar on 'Impact of migration on the health of Bangladeshi labour migrants'. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Time: 9:30am.

Luncheon meeting

Canada Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry organises a luncheon meeting on 'Renewable energy prospects in Bangladesh'. Venue: Dhaka Chamber auditorium, Time: 12:00noon.

Media award

Unicef Bangladesh organises an award giving ceremony of Meena Media Award 2009. Venue: British Council auditorium, Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

Delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh organises a half-day seminar on EU-Bangladesh trade relation. Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Time: 10:00am.

Tiger kills two

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Tigers killed two fishermen in the last three days while they were fishing in canals near the Sundarbans.

The victims are Rahid Gazi, 37, of Nalian village and Miraj Molla, 24, of Kalabogi village under Dakop upazila in Khulna district.

A tiger in a canal at Haddabra char attacked Rahid on his neck on Monday and dragged the body inside the

forest, eyewitnesses said.

Forest guards and fishermen recovered his fleshless body from deep forest after three hours long search, said Deputy Forest Officer Mihir Kumar.

In another incident, Miraj was killed on November 1 at Kalirchar canal.

His body could not be recovered. Panic gripped fishermen due to increase in attack by tigers in the coastal belts of the Sundarbans.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 41st death anniversary of M Rajab Ali, former chairman of Pabna municipality and eminent lawyer of Pabna Judges' Court, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held on Friday at 18/1, Tajmahal road, Mohammadpur in the city.

Relatives are requested to join the programme.

Tigers zap Zim to take series

FROM PAGE 1

who started the carnage.

A failure at the top order couldn't stop Bangladesh, who started the series on the wrong foot by losing the first game at Mirpur, to take an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series with a six-wicket victory.

The match finished in less than three hours when the Tigers achieved the target in 11.5 overs much to the dismay of a packed home crowd who turned up at the ground anticipating a lot of fireworks.

It was a good loss to lose for Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan. But for his Zimbabwe counterpart Hamilton Masakadza the decision to bat first on a track which offered surprise turn and bounce completely backfired as his team perished even before the early morning dew dried up.

Nazmul, the lone paceman in the Tigers' bowling attack, started it all by removing Masakadza in the very first over. Masakadza tried to go over the top of mid-on but failed to get enough bat on it and the ball lobbed up straight to

Mohammad Ashraful at mid-on.

Left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak, who operated the new ball from the other end, induced Brendan Taylor to chip the ball back to the bowler in the very second over and in the following over Nazmul came up with a gem of a delivery to send Charles Coventry back to the pavilion.

Stuttering at 8 for 4, Stuart Matsikenyeri joined Mark Waller to stage a fightback but another left-arm spinner Enamul Haque broke the 24-run partnership to ensure Zimbabwe's embarrassing demise.

Then it was matter of time for the local spinners to wrap up the visitors' innings in 24.5 overs in front of a nearly 10,000 strong crowd in the port city ground.

Enamul claimed three wickets conceding 16 runs in seven overs while Shakib, after an almost barren spell in the first three games, picked up three wickets for 8 runs in 6.5 overs. Razzak, the leading wicket-taker in the series, captured two wickets for 10 in 5 overs and Nazmul finished with 2 for 10 in 5 overs.

With the series victory, their fourth on the trot, Bangladesh made sure that 2009 would be a memorable year following successes against the same team twice and against the West Indies.

It was a day when record rolled for good and bad reasons. It was the best bowling effort by the Tigers after they had dismissed Hong Kong for 105 runs in the 2004 Asia Cup in Colombo and it was the lowest total in this ground surpassing the previous low-est of 153 by Scotland in 2006.

Bangladesh had a great chance to secure their first-ever 10-wicket win in the one-day competition but the top order batting again wobbled despite Tamim Iqbal (22) and Zunaed Siddiqui (8) setting the tone for achieving that feat.

Left-arm spinner Raymond Price and Greame Cremer took two wickets each to give the indication that the match could have finished differently had their batsmen put a few more runs on the board.

The fifth and final match will take place at the same venue tomorrow.