

## PM seeks power

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also stressed the need for joint efforts in power and energy sector, particularly in generating hydroelectricity, for mutual benefits.

The premier proposed that the electric power generated in the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan could be exported to neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh.

"For such regional grid connectivity, our two countries could work together," she said.

Hasina further called for united efforts for best utilisation of the two countries' scenic beauties in the tourism sector. "We could prepare alluring packages combining visits to the snowy white mountain ranges of the Himalayas with the silvery, sandy beaches of Cox's Bazar in southern Bangladesh," she said.

The Bhutanese prime minister welcomed Hasina's suggestion for introducing bilateral road communications between the two countries.

"We will be happy if we can set up land communications with Bangladesh," the host prime minister said when Sheikh Hasina met him at his office Gyalong Tshokhang in the capital yesterday afternoon.

Both the prime ministers agreed that all the South Asian countries need to work in union for poverty alleviation and protecting people from the climate threats.

The Bhutanese prime minister thanked Hasina for her strong role in the international forums regarding arranging funds for the climate-victim countries, including Bangladesh and Bhutan.

She said, "The gradual melting of the Himalayan glaciers will first harm Bhutan and then Bangladesh as sea level is rising at an alarming rate."

Sheikh Hasina in her meeting with her Bhutanese counterpart proposed that Bangladesh and Bhutan introduce cross-border road communications through three points--Burimari Port (Lalmirihat), Tamabil (Sylhet) and Naoka (Sherpur)--to enhance bilateral trade and people-to-people contact between the two countries.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Deputy Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Nazrul Islam said Sheikh Hasina also told the Bhutanese prime minister that her government is modernising Mongla seaport and other ports of the country, which Bhutan could use for external trade.

She declared at the meeting that the planned Rangamati University will be built in the light of Bhutanese architecture.

Hasina invited the Bhutanese prime minister to visit Bangladesh. The

## Muggers shoot staff for Tk 2 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bhutanese premier accepted the invitation.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan and Bhutanese Economic Affairs Minister Lyompo Khandu Wangchuk signed the trade agreement in the presence of the two premiers at the Bhutanese Prime Minister's Office.

After signing the deal, the

Bhutanese prime minister expressed his gratitude to the government of Bangladesh for allowing tariff-free access of more Bhutanese products to Bangladesh.

He said, "The farmers of Bhutan will be significantly benefited by the tariff-free access of 18 more products to Bangladesh market."

Under the renewed trade agreement, Tamabil of Bangladesh has been introduced as a new entry and exit point for Bhutan in the protocol to the trade agreement.

Besides, the number of products has been increased to 90 from the previous 74 for trading between Bangladesh and Bhutan.

The trade agreement was first signed in 1980 for ten years and extended for another 10 years automatically as per provision of the deal that means the validity was up to 2000.

The trade agreement was signed again in 2003 for five years.

BSS adds, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh and Bhutan could work together in tackling the climate change challenges, expanding bilateral trade and enhancing regional cooperation in the greater interest of the two peoples.

"We can take joint efforts in tackling the consequences of global warming as both the countries are exposed to worst impacts of the phenomenon," she said while Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk hosted a reception in her honour at his palace.

The issues, including bilateral trade expansion and enhanced regional cooperation, were other major issues to dominate the nearly one hour meeting, followed by a royal lunch at the king's palace garden at Thimphu.

The Bhutanese king also expressed his eagerness for enhancing bilateral cooperation and sought Bangladesh's support in the country's infrastructure development sector.

She said her government would provide necessary support to Bhutan for its socio-economic and infrastructure development sector alongside taking initiatives for increased trade and economic relations.

She said Dhaka would soon send a business delegation to Bhutan to explore potential areas of bilateral trade.

## November 7

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leaders, pro-BNP intellectuals and ex-army personnel said country's present situation is worse than the 'chaotic' and 'disorderly' situation that prevailed in the first week of November, 1975.

To uphold the spirit of the day, they urged people to unite under the leadership of party chief Khaleda Zia.

They also observed that the country's independence and sovereignty would have been lost had the day not come as the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, party standing committee members Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and M Shamsul Islam, former vice-chancellors of Dhaka University Moniruzzaman Mia and Emajuddin Ahmed, Maj General (retd) Ruhul Amin, Brig Gen (retd) Mukhlesur Rahman, among others, addressed the meeting.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was also in the attendance.

Earlier in the day, Khaleda Zia accompanied by her party leaders placed wreaths at the grave of former president and founder of BNP Ziaur Rahman in the city's Chandrima Udayan.

A large number of leaders and activists of BNP and its associate organisations also paid tribute to the former president with colourful banners and festoons.

Besides, a blood donation programme was inaugurated on the premises of Zia's shrine.

On the other hand, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal observed the day as the "Civil-Military Uprising Day".

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote marked the day as "the Day of Killing of Freedom Fighters" at a rally in front of Awami League office in the city.

At the rally State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam alleged that BNP is creating confusions among people by distorting the real history of November 7.

He urged the army personnel, intellectuals and journalists to inform the nation of the 'real fact' on the day.

Ekatorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee also interpreted the day with the same spirit at a meeting held at the city's Bangabandhu Avenue.

Bangabandhu Smriti Sangrakshan Parishad formed a human chain near central jail in the city observing the day as "the Day of Killing of Freedom Fighters".

Y-Platoon, an organisation run by freedom fighters of sector two, placed wreaths at the grave of Major Khaled Mosharraf marking the day as "the Day of Killing of Soldiers".

The organisation also held a discussion in Mohammadpur.

## Lashkar

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Monirul Islam, a DB deputy commissioner, said two foreigners top their list of LeT suspects. The two know the ins and outs of the attack plot and are playing an important role in efforts to pull it off.

"Not only the US embassy, they may attempt to attack other places as well," the DCB said.

"We have specific evidence the detainees had links to plotting terror attacks here."

Meanwhile, leaders of the federation and officials of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) held meetings on Thursday and Friday but could not reach any agreement.

Asked about this, Md Shafiqul Haque, BIWTA director (traffic), said, "It is a matter for the Directorate of Labour. We have no function here."

The five labour organisations are Bangladesh Launch Labour Association, Rangamati Parbatya Zila Noujan Sramik Union, Samudrik Matshya Shikari Jahaj Sramik Union, Bangladesh Jahaj Sramik Sangha and Cargo-Trawler Sramik Union.

In related developments, different NGOs and other organisations including Green Club of Bangladesh, Save Waterway Implementation Movement, and Citizens Rights Movements expressed solidarity with the striking workers.

He said they have information that the suspected foreigners used to frequent the madrasa, which might have been used as a training camp-cum-shelter for the militants.

## Cellphone crime

FROM PAGE 16

Armed muggers snatched Tk 2 lakh from a sales representative of a cell phone company, leaving him bullet injured at Rasyabazar Bazar in the city's Sutrapur yesterday.

Subrata, 26, serving as Banglalink's Old Dhaka office, was admitted to Pangu Hospital at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Mohammad Hanif of DB said extortions use several cellphone sets with the same IMEI number for issuing threats or demanding toll and they later alter their SIM cards to dodge law enforcers.

He mentioned that even after changing the SIM used for issuing threats, detectives earlier could identify the criminals by their IMEI numbers but recently the detections found that 198 cellphone sets were used by a gang of extortions using one IMEI number.

DB sources said when extortions could understand that detectives are able to locate them by their IMEI

numbers even if the SIM cards are changed, they started to use one fake IMEI number for several cellphone sets at a time.

BTRC sources said each cellphone set bears one IMEI number with 15 digits which helps locate the cellphone holder and identify the SIM card number used in the cellphone.

British Approval Board for Telecommunication (BABT) in Britain regulates IMEI numbers internationally and Bangladesh is also a member of the BABT.

DB said cellphone sets with fake IMEI numbers are available in most of the city markets and almost all the cellphone sets with fake IMEI numbers are being imported by a group of small importers.

Earlier Dhaka a Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque told The Daily Star that top listed criminals--Dakaat Shahid, Shahadat, Monwar Hossain Manu, Khurshed and Mukul--are controlling their gangs from India while Narottam Saha alias Ashik has his criminal acts from Dubai.

## 149 out on bail

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they cannot be involved in militancy again.

"We've already instructed all our units across the country to keep constant watch on those who were arrested on charge of militancy but were released on bail or acquitted of the charges," says Rab intelligence wing Director Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan.

Sources in the Special Branch say they have evidence that some of those people have returned to militant activities again.

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