

Hasina calls

FROM PAGE 1
Declaration to fight food crisis and hunger.

"It is now for us to abide by the declaration in a bid to save future generations from the scourge of hunger and poverty," Hasina said adding, "We, in our country, would indeed be guided by the declaration in our endeavour to attain food security."

The declaration include foster strategic coordination at national, regional and global level to improve governance, promote better allocation of resources, strive for a comprehensive twin-track approach to food security to immediately tackle hunger for the most vulnerable, long-term sustainable agricultural, food security, nutrition and rural development programmes to eliminate the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Referring to the summit declaration that provides scope for strengthening global governance on food security, including enhanced role of the Committee on Food Security (CFS), the prime minister suggested that better coordination amongst FAO, IFAD and WFP would "definitely contribute to their goal of attaining food security."

She, however, said substantial fund is essential for implementing the provisions of the declaration.

Hasina in her speech also depicted the disastrous link between the global climate change and food production in the globe.

She said, "Food security is directly related to climate change. Bangladesh stands out as a stark example where agricultural production has become hostage to frequent and erratic natural disasters, thereby, adversely affected in food production."

Significantly, shortage of fund has also severely restricted our research efforts in agriculture, particularly in food production, Hasina said giving importance to development of high yielding agro-based products for discovering their varieties resistant to salinity, drought and water submergence.

Hasina said the threat to food security now seems to be greater than ever against the backdrop of sudden scarcity of food and its price spiral in the recent worldwide financial meltdown, and the looming impacts of climate change.

"The picture we see now is a cruel one for the world where one-sixth of its population, or over a billion, are faced with the specter of hunger. The vast majority of these people reside in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) facing food shortage, negation of development gains, and erosion of Millennium Development Goals."

Indeed, the unprecedented

KMC closed

FROM PAGE 1
Local sources said the clash ensued following a function organised to accord reception to newly elected office bearers of Khulna unit of Bangladesh Medical Association.

Activists of the rival factions chased and hurled bricks and chairs against each other during the clash that continued for two hours from 1:00pm creating a pandemonium at the venue.

Khulna Metropolitan Police Commissioner Helaluddin Badri said he would sit with the KMC authorities and students to calm the situation down.

Power talks

FROM PAGE 16
Company of India (PTCI).

They will also visit two under-construction massive coal-fired power project sites in Gujarat. One of them will have 3600 MW capacity and the other 4800 MW.

Besides, they will visit a new plant site near Delhi having two different units run by natural gas and coal -- each having 750 MW capacity.

"We shall discuss future cooperation for human resources and technical development between the PDB and the NTPC," PDB chairman Alamgir Kabir said.

He also said they would also discuss whether a technical team could be formed to scrutinise the issue of power interconnectivity between India and Bangladesh.

In the past, Bangladesh has been hammering on setting up a Saarc Grid for regional power inter-connectivity so that power can also be imported from Nepal or Bhutan.

The team will discuss with the PTCI the modalities of purchase of power from India on short term and long-term basis.

They would also discuss the

increase in food price during the last two years aggravated further the predicament of the LDCs, already reeling under declined remittances, reduced export earnings, credit crunch, and unemployment at home and abroad, due to global recession, said Hasina adding that the increased costs of seed and fertiliser, paucity of water and energy have also added to the difficulties.

The prime minister said her new government on assumption of power confronted with all these challenges.

"We have, once again, resurrected agricultural research to find flood, drought, and salinity resistant food and cash crops, access of small farmers to sustainable agricultural technologies, social entrepreneurship, and financial credit."

"We have also revived diversification of crop varieties; building food grain storage capacities to ensure sustained supply of food round the year; putting in place social safety nets like cash and food transfers; and other poverty alleviation programs," she added.

With Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi in the chair, the opening session was also addressed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, FAO Director General Jacques Diouf, and President of Italian Senate Renato Schifani and Mayor of Rome Giovanni Alemanno.

Earlier, the PM had a dinner with the 10 selected heads of state and government on joint invitation by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini at the summit building at about 9:00pm BST.

At the dinner, they talked over facing the challenges of the climate changes.

Betar-TV

FROM PAGE 1
course of rule-hearing on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) writ petition filed by Odhikar, a leading human rights watchdog.

On November 19, 2000, a HC division bench, following a PIL writ petition, issued a rule upon the government to explain why a direction should not be given to consider for implementing the June 30, 1997 report submitted by the commission for the formulation of rules and regulations for the autonomy of BTV and Betar.

The recommendations of the commission included formation of an independent National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) making it accountable only to the parliamentary standing committee on information.

The recommendations also said that the NBC would administer both Betar and BTV, approve the budgets for the two electronic media so that they could function with their own income.

The recommendations also included that a standard committee would be formed by the NBC to monitor satellite and terrestrial programmes, and take actions against violation of the guidelines.

Another recommendation said that news value would replace protocol value when it comes to news coverage.

Advocate Adilur Rahman Khan appeared for Odhikar while deputy attorney general Nazrul Islam Talukder stood for the government.

Stimulus-plus

FROM PAGE 1
In the last fiscal year, the government had allocated additional 2.5 percent subsidy to jute, leather and frozen shrimp sectors to tackle the fallout from global recession, but no subsidy had been given to the readymade garment sector.

But, exports in the readymade garment sector have decreased by 20 percent in the first three months of the current fiscal year and that is why the government is considering giving incentive to this sector.

The shipbuilding, evolving as a potential export-earning sector in the country, may get 7.5 to 10 percent export subsidy.

Besides, the government is considering to give banking facilities to help export sector overcome the pinch of global economic downturn.

The finance ministry, however, decided to increase the term of loan rescheduling by three months for the export oriented industries including frozen food, leather and goods, apparel (spinning) and RMG sectors without any down payment.

The term for loan rescheduling without any down payment fixed till September earlier may now be extended to December, sources said.

Finance ministry sources said a total of Tk 5,046 crore was allocated for giving subsidy and incentives in this year's budget and Tk 3,046 crore was fixed for those sectors, which are already getting the export subsidy.

The ministry has already released Tk 1,311 crore out of Tk 3,046 crore for the sectors, sources added.

Stumbling start

FROM PAGE 16

Noman along with over 1000 activists stormed into the venue before the national and party flags could be hoisted.

Earlier in the morning, Noman called an unscheduled gathering of his followers in front of Nasiman Bhaban City BNPOffice.

Activists loyal to Noman carried out massive ransacking and attacked participants in the council that resulted in a clash leaving at least 10 persons injured.

They captured the venue and kept all the leaders including chief guest Hannan Shah and inaugurator M Morshed Khan besieged for over an hour. They chanted slogan for Noman encircling the leaders on the stage during all this time.

The chaos and clashes forced all the leaders leave the venue around 12:15pm when Noman's men also ransacked the stage.

After Hannan Shah and Morshed Khan were gone, BNP Joint Secretary General Goyeshwar Roy, who was responsible for holding the councils in Chittagong division, BNP Chittagong divisional Organising Secretary Mohammad Shahjahan and Jatayatbadi Jubo Dal President Barkat Ullah Bulu sought to reorganise the leaders to begin the council again.

However, they succeeded in bringing the leaders of both the groups to the venue again. As the dais and stage were smashed, the leaders made brief speeches standing on chairs.

Goyeshwar took the microphone first to address and conduct the council. After that, Mir Nasir, Shahjahan, Barkat Ullah, Wahidul Alam and Noman had spoken one by one at the invitation of Goyeshwar before Amir Khosru made his presidential speech concluding the failed event.

Amir Khosru in his speech said the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party.

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

Stumbling start

FROM PAGE 16
Noman along with over 1000 activists stormed into the venue before the national and party flags could be hoisted.

Earlier in the morning, Noman called an unscheduled gathering of his followers in front of Nasiman Bhaban City BNPOffice.

Activists loyal to Noman carried out massive ransacking and attacked participants in the council that resulted in a clash leaving at least 10 persons injured.

They captured the venue and kept all the leaders including chief guest Hannan Shah and inaugurator M Morshed Khan besieged for over an hour. They chanted slogan for Noman encircling the leaders on the stage during all this time.

The chaos and clashes forced all the leaders leave the venue around 12:15pm when Noman's men also ransacked the stage.

After Hannan Shah and Morshed Khan were gone, BNP Joint Secretary General Goyeshwar Roy, who was responsible for holding the councils in Chittagong division, BNP Chittagong divisional Organising Secretary Mohammad Shahjahan and Jatayatbadi Jubo Dal President Barkat Ullah Bulu sought to reorganise the leaders to begin the council again.

However, they succeeded in bringing the leaders of both the groups to the venue again. As the dais and stage were smashed, the leaders made brief speeches standing on chairs.

Goyeshwar took the microphone first to address and conduct the council. After that, Mir Nasir, Shahjahan, Barkat Ullah, Wahidul Alam and Noman had spoken one by one at the invitation of Goyeshwar before Amir Khosru made his presidential speech concluding the failed event.

Amir Khosru in his speech said the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party.

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

sumed the party was now passing through a crucial time of transition and urged all the party men to remain united rising above personal interest and giving priority to party."

He demanded the party high command punish those responsible for creating chaos. Talking to the journalists, Khosru claimed that the council was "partially successful".

While talking to The Daily Star Khosru said, "As hosts we wanted to hold the council peacefully. But everyone pres-

ent at the venue witnessed what happened and who should be held responsible for it."

"We would expect the party high command to take stern action against those who were responsible for the attack on the council."

Noman in his speech said he was willing to hold the council after resolving the disputes over thana committees.

"However, at the call of the party chairperson I agreed to join today's [Monday] council. Accordingly I addressed a gathering of aggrieved party men at Nasiman Bhaban in the morning. I pacified them and came here to join the council in a peaceful atmosphere," said Noman.

"But I felt insulted when I was barred from entering the venue," alleged Noman.

BNP PRESS BRIEFING
Later in the evening at a press briefing Goyeshwar Roy said the disputes over thana committees in Chittagong and elsewhere in the country would be resolved before the party's central council on December 8.

Waving aside possibility of forming a probe body on the incident at Chittagong city unit council, he said senior leaders and everyone else witnessed what happened. So it would not be tough to find out the facts, he added.

On the party's port city unit committee, Goyeshwar Roy said, "The committee would be formed in the light of today's [Monday] incident and through organisational procedures in time."

Mohammad Shahjahan and Barkat Ullah Bulu were also present at the press briefing held at the Chittagong Club.

COMMITTEE FORMED TO TAKE ACTION

A meeting of the National Standing Committee of the BNP last night discussed the clashes in Chittagong and decided to take necessary actions.

A committee headed by the party secretary general has been formed which will take necessary steps after having discussions with its leaders in Chittagong.

Girl student

FROM PAGE 16
Profession in CRP, died on the spot. She was the daughter of Abdul Razzak, a sub-assistant engineer of TNT in Rangpur.

Sub-inspector (SI) Azizur Rahman of Savar Police Station told The Daily Star that hostel authorities found Sabiha dead when they broke into her room around 11:00am.

The SI said Sabiha was expelled for adopting unfair means in yesterday's exam held at the institution in CRP compound. She was appearing for the first-year final exam and used to live in the women's hostel, he added.

CRP sources said she returned to the hostel around 10:30am following the incident at the exam hall. A few minutes later, inmates of the adjacent rooms on the second floor noticed smoke coming out of her room.

The inmates peeped into the room and with sheer horror they witnessed Sabiha burning alive, said the sources.

Police, later, sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

3 Pakistanis

FROM PAGE 1
active in the country and their financial backings, police said adding they also informed that Sufian had won a scholarship of \$40 a month from an international Islamic organisation.

The three Pakistani nationals were arrested on November 13 from Tongi and the city's Uttara areas.

Earlier on November 4, the detective branch of police arrested Mufti Harun Izahar, Shahidul Islam and Al Amin alias Saiful for their suspected links to the plot.

Harun is son of Mufti Izaharul Islam Chowdhury, chief of an Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) faction.

Shahidul and Saiful are Harun's associates and former students of the IOJ chief's madrasa. They have been sent to Dhaka Central Jail after remand in two phases.

Salam Pintu

FROM PAGE 16
with the Supreme Court against the order.

Chief Judicial Magistrate of Narayanganj Arifur Rahman on Sunday placed Pintu on a five-day remand in the case filed for bomb attack on Awami League (AL) office at Chashara in Narayanganj on June 16 in 2001 that left 20 people dead and over 100 AL leaders and activists injured.

On November 12, the BNP leader was shown arrested in the case following a petition submitted by investigation officer Assistant Superintendent of Police Yusuf Ali Mollah.

A jail source said there is no scope for conversation among the five prisoners, but they each have a radio and regular supply of newspapers.

Deadly attack as French gen meets Afghans

10 killed

AFP, Kabul

Afghan insurgents fired a pair of rockets into a crowded marketplace as a French general met local leaders nearby yesterday, killing 10 civilians, Afghan and French officials said.

A total of 28 other Afghan civilians were wounded in the attack in Tagab district, Kapisa province, just northeast of Kabul, deputy provincial police chief Abdul Hamid Hakimi told AFP.

"The enemy fired two rockets on the main bazaar in Tagab. Ten people, all civilians, were killed and 28 others were wounded," he said.

The bloody attack came as France's parliament was due to debate the mission in Afghanistan, amid mounting domestic political concern over a war opposed by a majority of French voters.

The attack occurred while General Marcel Druart, the commander of French troops in eastern Afghanistan, attended a "shura" of tribal elders 300 metres (yards) away.

"French and American medical teams with helicopters evacuated six of the wounded to military hospitals in Kabul, while armoured vehicles took others to the French base in Tagab," French spokesman Admiral Christophe Prazuck told reporters in Paris.

Prazuck said that "three or four Afghans, including children" were killed outright, but that no French troops were hurt. Ten of the wounded Afghans were in a serious condition, he added.

Druart was attending the meeting as part of NATO's attempts to win the trust and support of local civilians in an area just 60 kilometres (38 miles) northeast of Kabul with a strong Taliban insurgent presence.

BNP standing

FROM PAGE 1
been incorporated into it, according to party sources.

The meeting started around 9:00pm at Khaleda's Gulshan office and continued till 11:15pm.

After the meeting, standing committee member RA Gani told the reporters that the committee "initially approved the draft constitution with some additions and omissions".

He said the changes made to the draft constitution would be compiled later for the final draft-amended constitution, which will be placed before the party's national council on December 8 for approval.

On Sunday, the subcommittee on BNP constitution amendment handed over the draft-amended constitution to the party chairperson.

The standing committee members include Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, RA Gani, Moudud Ahmed, Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, M Shamsul Islam and Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman.

3 Pakistanis

FROM PAGE 1
active in the country and their financial backings, police said adding they also informed that Sufian had won a scholarship of \$40 a month from an international Islamic organisation.

The three Pakistani nationals were arrested on November 13 from Tongi and the city's Uttara areas.

Earlier on November 4, the detective branch of police arrested Mufti Harun Izahar, Shahidul Islam and Al Amin alias Saiful for their suspected links to the plot.

Harun is son of Mufti Izaharul Islam Chowdhury, chief of an Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) faction.

Shahidul and Saiful are Harun's associates and former students of the IOJ chief's madrasa. They have been sent to Dhaka Central Jail after remand in two phases.

Salam Pintu

FROM PAGE 16
with the Supreme Court against the order.

Chief Judicial Magistrate of Narayanganj Arifur Rahman on Sunday placed Pintu on a five-day remand in the case filed for bomb attack on Awami League (AL) office at Chashara in Narayanganj on June 16