

## Hasina calls

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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

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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 brickbats and chairs against each other during the clash that continued for two hours from 1:00pm creating a pandemic 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

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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 on setting up the PTCI," 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 inter-connectivity 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

## Stimulus-plus

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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

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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.

## Drug addict

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After the killing, Lipu locked the house up and fled the scene with its key. Sensing trouble, neighbours rushed in and through its windows found their bodies lying in a pool of blood.

On information, police came and recovered the bodies at about 12:15pm after breaking open the door.

Police and Rab in a joint drive raided Chuadanga railway junction following information that Lipu was fleeing by an intercity train bound for Parbottipur from Khulna.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, Lipu jumped from the train and fell into the rail track when another running train hit him, leaving him injured.

Later, police arrested him at about 1:00pm. Habibur's family members and locals suspect Lipu as the killer.

Lipu was admitted to district Sadar Hospital as his leg was cut off by the train.

Police said Lipu admitted of the double murder. Deputy Commissioner Bholanath Dey and SP Abdul Baten visited the spot.

## Stumbling start

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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 leather goods, jute and jute 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.

## ACC challenges

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March 6, 2007, accusing Mohiuddin of amassing a huge fortune through misuse of power.

He also charged the former state minister with concealing information in his wealth statement submitted to the ACC.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of Special Court 3 set up at the MP Hostel in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex on July 26, 2007, sentenced Mohiuddin to 13 years in prison and fined him Tk 10 lakh in the case.

Mohiuddin filed an appeal with the HC challenging the verdict of the special court.

## 2 brothers

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20, claimed that Madaripur Rab did not give them any information after the Rab men picked up Lutfor and Khairul Saturday morning.

At a press conference in Madaripur on Saturday, Jharna Begum and Bablu appealed for not killing the brothers in the name of crossfire. They also mentioned in the press conference that Rab-3 had arrested the brothers from Rupganj in Narayanganj around 1:00am on Saturday.

Jharna and Bablu were apprehensive that instead of police, Rab might take them to Madaripur and kill them in the name of an attempt to recover illegal arms.

On receiving the news of their death, Jharna and Bablu claimed that the Rab team killed the two after knowing about the home ministry sending a directive for not putting them in crossfire.

## Judges fully

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Replying to a question, he said a process is underway to bring back the fugitives accused of Bangabandhu murder from abroad.

A government-level discussion is necessary in this regard. The signing of extradition treaties to bring back the fugitives depends on the existing relationship with the countries, he told reporters.

About the trial of war criminals, he said the government is trying hard so that the trial is fair and accepted worldwide. "There is no scope of confusion in this regard," Shafique said, adding that setting up of a court is underway in a protected building.

## Girl student

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

Sub-inspector (SI) Azizur Rahman of Savar Police Station told The Daily Star that hostels 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.

## Dhaka jail

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arrangement for Rajanigandha cell where the five killers of Bangabandhu Lt Col (sacked) Syed Farooq Rahman, Lt Col (retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Maj (retd) Bazul Huda Maj (retd) AKM Mahiuddin Ahmed (lancer) and Mohiuddin Ahmed are confined.

Presiding over a meeting of the heads of different law enforcement and intelligence agencies at the home ministry, the home minister yesterday asked them to remain watchful and work in coordination to avoid any troubles ahead of the judgment.

"We discussed on how to ensure law and order before important events, including the verdict, Eid-ul-Azha, Victory Day and 31st December," Sahara Khan told the journalists after the meeting.

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