PM seeks more US investment in Raise voice against militancy: Hasina infrastructure, power, energy

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought more investment from the United States in the country's thrust sectors like power and energy, and infrastructure.

The appeal came when a US delegation led by Congressman David Price called on the Prime Minister at her official residence Gonobhaban.

Hasina said the stance of Bangladesh against terrorism and extremism is very much clear and her government would not allow any sort of terrorism and extremism in the country.

She said that for a long time democracy was absent in Bangladesh and the present government is working hard to strengthen the democratic institutions in the country.

"We're working to strengthen parliament... we're very much optimistic about fulfilling the expectations of the people through parliament."

She hoped that the friendly relations between Bangladesh and the United States would increase further.

Deputy Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Mahbubul Huq Shakil, who was present during the



A US delegation led by Congressman David Price calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gonobhaban in the city yesterday.

meeting, briefed the journalists.

The US delegation has assured the prime minister of providing necessary help for increasing their investment in infrastructure, energy and power sectors.

During the meeting, Congressman David Price

said that the US was impressed with the overwhelming victory of Awami League in the last general election.

He noted that the 2008 general election was the most free, fair and credible in Bangladesh's history and opened the door of restoring democracy under the dynamic leadership of Hasina.

the present government' s welfare-oriented programmes especially food security and UN: the evening. peacekeeping operations.

Hasina said due to the absence of democracy in : Bangladesh for a long time the country could not attain the expected development.

She said since taking office, her government has : gion, any border." been working ceaselessly to strengthen the demopeople's desire can be reflected through them.

Regarding terrorism and militancy, Hasina said: Bangladesh's stance in this regard is always firm and the country will continue to work to root out these : social menaces.

She termed poverty as the main enemy for the : opinion. entire region and said Bangladesh is always ready tries of the region for welfare of their peoples.

PM's Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi, Ambassador at large M Ziauddin and Principal Secretary to the meeting.

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the ulema, mashaikhs and all other Islamic scholars and religious leaders to stand guard against the 'evil' force which is out to misguide people using the name of Islam, the religion of peace.

Hasina made the call when an 85-member delegation of Price said Washington is always supportive of : Islamic scholars and leaders led by the Principal of Hathajari Madrasa Allama Shah Ahmad Shafi met her at Gonobhaban in

> Hasina also requested the Islamic scholars to raise mass awareness against militancy and other types of terrorism, drug addiction, women repression, and child and women trafficking.

She said "Terrorists are terrorists, they don't have any reli-

She reiterated that the present government will not enact any cratic institutions including parliament so that : law which would go against the Holy Quran and Sunnah. She said the government has already decided to include

> religious education in the texts for the national curriculum at the primary level. About the planned education policy, she said it has been

provided on the government's website for public viewing and

She also invited suggestions from the Islamic scholars in order to fight against this curse together with the country.

Hasina said religious education is necessary for building Prime Minister's son Sajeeb Ahmed Wazed, : people's moral strength, while general education can pave the way for vocationally, through jobs at home or abroad.

Allama Shah Ahmad Shafi, Hazrat Maulana Ashraf Ali, Hazrat Prime Minister MA Karim were present at the : Maolana Anwar Shah, and Hazrat Maulana Abul Jabbar also : spoke on the occasion.

Nurul Islam Khan passes away

DU CORRESPONDENT

Nurul Islam Khan, a former secretary and father of Deputy Editor of The Daily Star Sharier Khan, passed away due to old age complications at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 75.

He left behind his wife Zahanara Islam Khan, three sons -- Zehan Khan, Shabaz Khan and Sharier Khan, grandchildren and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

Born at Bikrampur in Munshiganj in 1935, Nurul Islam Khan joined the Civil Service of Pakistan (CSP) in 1959. In 1970, he was appointed

law secretary to the provincial government of the then During the War of

Liberation in 1971, he along with some other civil servants was held captive in the then West Pakistan. At the end of the liberation

war, he fled home from West Pakistan and rejoined Bangladesh Civil Service.

He was promoted to the youth and sports secretary of the Bangladesh government in

He retired from the service in 1988.

He also wrote more than a dozen of books, including novels

and collections of short stories. He was buried at Banani graveyard after a namaz-ejanaza at a Mirpur mosque at

Qulkhwani of Nurul Islam Khan will be held at his own residence at Mirpur after Asr prayers on Friday.

Ctg transport strike called off

STAFF CORRESPONDNET, Ctg

Bus services resumed yesterday afternoon on 19 different routes connecting Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Bandarban as the owners called off an indefinite strike following a fruitful meeting with administration.

The transport workers and owners enforced the strike Sunday morning after a leader of the ruling party allegedly demanded extortion money centring an accident that killed a boy in Ramu upazila of Cox's Bazar on Thursday.

After the three-hour talks from 12:00pm at the divisional commissioner's office, Additional Divisional Commissioner Md Saifullah assured the leaders of Chittagong Cox's Bazar Teknaf Paribahan Malik Sramik Shamonnoy Parishad of meeting their demands.

Parishad Convener Abul Kalam Azad told The Daily Star that they withdrawn the strike after getting assurance from the administration to meet

their three demands. The meeting decided that proper legal procedures would be followed in case of any road accident, and no third party or political leader would be allowed to make any settlement, he said.

REGIONAL MEETING ON CLIMATE CHANGE ENDS

Call for concerted efforts to address refugee issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Security and climate experts yesterday called for concerted efforts to address the issue of climate-driven migration, which will be the major cause of inter-countries conflicts. As climate refugees of a country would

try to enter a neighbouring country for their livelihoods, a conflict might arise between the two countries, said Maj Gen (retd) Muniruzzaman, president of Bangladesh Institute for Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS).

So, all the countries should take steps to address the security issues, which might result from global climate change, he said.

Climate refugees have already started to migrate internally from the remote

areas to urban, which will lead to international migration and pose a threat to security, he added. Maj Gen (retd) Muniruzzaman made the

remarks at a press conference at the end of a two-day regional expert roundtable on 'Security implications of climate change in South Asia' at a city hotel. It would not be possible for any coun-

try alone to manage a large number of climate refugees, he said and stressed the need for concerted efforts of all countries to address the issue.

BIPSS, Sri Lanka-based Regional Centre for Security Studies (RCSS) and the Peace-building and Development Institute (PDIU), and the UK-based NGO International Alert jointly organised the conference.

Experts from India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended the regional meeting and discussed how climate change is affecting fragile communities in the region. Dan Smith, secretary general of

International Alert, Ambassador Geetha de Silva of RCSS and Mohammed Mahuruf of PDI also spoke at the press conference. In many of these communities, the

failure of governance structure to address risks, such as food shortage and lack of access to drinking water, is eroding people's trust in their governments, they said.

This mistrust and diminished support can lead to an increased risk of political instability and violent conflict, the experts said.

BNP alleges obstruction on way to Ctg rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chittagong divisional rally of opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) ended peacefully in the port city yesterday without any untoward incident or chaos feared to result from intra-party grouping in the organisation's Chittagong city unit.

Thousands of people started thronging the rally venue at Laldighi Maidan since morning from different parts of the district and other districts under Chittagong division.

Defying the scorching heat of Chaitra, the party leaders and activities carrying banners and festoons gathered in and around the rally venue in a disciplined way.

Far before BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia arrived at the venue at 3:28 the whole of Laldighi Maidan and adjoining roads stretching upto Kotowali police station in the south, Anderkilla intersection in the north, Nandan Kanon in the west and Badarpati in the east became packed with people.

The party men and supporters chanted AL organisation that has Chittagong AL slogan identifying late President Ziaur Rahman as the proclaimer of independence and urging

safeguard sovereignty of the country and protect interest of the people. However, the leaders and activists

Khaleda Zia to go ahead with movement to

alleged that they faced obstacles while coming to the rally from different areas of Ranirhat under Rangunia upazila, Kaptai and Rangamati routes and at Pahartali in While addressing the rally, some of the BNP

leaders accused the ruling Awami League (AL) for putting up obstacle before the rally-bound people in the name of strike called by transport workers and owners. Besides, they accused the ruling party for

not allowing BNP to hold the rally at its prescheduled venue of Chittagong Outer Stadium on March 27.

They also blamed the government for not vacating the venue, where a fair titled 'Swadhinata Mela' continued till Sunday midnight. Swadhinata Mela Udjapan Parishad - a pro-

General Secretary Inamul Haq Danu as its convener, organised the fair.

BCL, Jubo

clash over

tender at

UNB, Comilla

injured.

Daudkandi

Police fire rubber bullets

Rival groups of BCL and Jubo

League clashed over tender at

Daudkandi in Comilla yester-

day, leaving at least 12 people

Police fired 35 rubber

League men

ANTI-CORRUPTION DEBATE CONTEST ENDS

'Help build corruption-free society'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Chairman M Hafizuddin Khan yesterday called on the students to be imbued with the spirit of fighting corruption to build a corruption-free society.

"You will say no to corruption, fight it and stamp out the menace so that there would be no need for Transparency International Bangladesh or Anti-Corruption Commission in the country," he said as the chief guest at the concluding ceremony of a debate competition.

TIB and Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF) jointly organised the two-day anti-corruption debate competition and training for school students at Willes Little Flower School and College auditorium in the city. The debate competition was held in parliamentary style.



Winners of an anti-corruption debate competition pose for photo with the guests at the closing session of the event at Willes Little Flower School and College auditorium in the city yesterday. TIB and Bangladesh Debate Federation jointly organised the contest.

adviser to the caretaker gov- to react to disagreements ernment, said the debate competition helps students

Hafizuddin, also a former arguments logically and how

Such logical arguments learn how to present their are absent in the speeches of

parliament members, he said. "Sometimes I feel embarrassed hearing the speeches in parliament," he said, adding that "You will not

be such parliament mem- competition on the topic of Referring to China's vic- nance'.

tory in the South Asian Games, Hafizuddin attributed the success to competent leadership and said that our country lacks such efficient leadership. He urged the young gener-

ation to prepare themselves to move the country forward and brighten the image of the country. BDF President Abdun Noor

Tushar said the fight against corruption is an ongoing process. "We need to inculcate a sense of morality in students to remove all sorts of greed and corruption from society." Terming debate a tool to

achieve such a goal, he said, "It is possible to rid the country of corruption within 25 years if we start our work to this end from today."

Some 270 students of class 8, 9 and 10 from 36 schools across the country participated in the training and 'Corruption and good gover-Best 10 debaters took part

in the final round of the debate

on the topic 'Would the proposed education policy ensure proper education?'. Souvik Kunda of St Gregory's High Schoo became the champion and the best debater of the competi-

tion while Nafis Ferdous Sakib of Motijheel Govt High School became the first runner-up and Shagufta Binte Jaki o Manarat Dhaka International College the second runner-up. Hafizuddin Khan distributed prizes among the winners. TIB Director SM

Rezwan-ul-Alam and Principal of Willes Little Flower School and College Lt Col Mohammad Mainul Islam Chowdhury also spoke.

The Daily Star, Prothom Alo and Baishakhi Television were the media partners of the event.

bullets to disperse the feuding groups and bring the situation under control. Witnesses said the clash over sharing of tender work worth Tk 14 lakh took place when BCL activists led by Miraj, Asif and

about 10:00am. Later, Jubo League leaders Nurul Amin and Nadim got involved in the clash. Both sides

Mamoon attacked their rivals at

used sharp weapons and sticks. Tuku Mia was severely injured when a member of his rival group hit him with a spear. He was admitted to

Tension was prevailing in the upazila town.

hospital.

Rokeya acting principal of Viqarunnisa

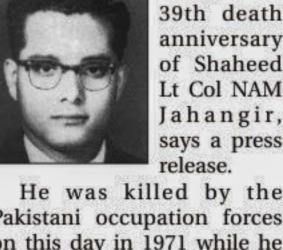
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry yesterday asked Rokeya Akter, who was earlier removed by the governing body, to continue as the acting principal of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College until further notice.

The ministry at an emergency meeting decided that

Education Board and Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) received any letter in this

regard, sources said. The meeting chaired by **Education Minister Nurul** Islam Nahid also criticised the role of some governing body members of the school and took the decision after reviewing a High Court directive and considering the fate of the hundreds of students of the



Pakistani occupation forces on this day in 1971 while he was the commanding officer of the then '40 Field Ambulance' in Comilla Cantonment. On the occasion, doa

after Juma prayers in Jame Mosque of CMH, Comilla Cantonment and Thana Mosque of Pangsha upazila in Rajbari. The Pakistani forces

arrested and executed him along with hundreds of fellow officers and soldiers. After independence, his body was exhumed in 1972 from a mass grave and buried with full military ceremonial fervour on the premises of Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Comilla Cantonment, Comilla.

WEATHER Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers with hails at places accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Barisal divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

5:52am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 38.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 19.0 degrees Celsius at Sylhet and Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:13pm today and rises at

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded

in some major cities and towns yesterday were: Temperature in **Humidity** in City/Town Celsius percentage Max Min Morning Evening Dhaka 34.7 22.8 Chittagong 30.0 20.5 81 78 Rajshahi 38.5 26.2 83 Khulna 26.8

26.5

19.0

24.4

75

34.8

33.5

29.0

30.0

Barisal

Sylhet

Cox's Bazar

C&F workers join work at Ctg port STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Employees of clearing and forwarding (C&F) agents joined their work inside the port yesterday morning after the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) assured them of ensuring their safety. The C&F agent employees,

known as Jetty Sircars, had stopped working after dock workers attacked them on Sunday, injuring four people. The Jetty Sircars came

under attack when they entered the port to take delivery of goods on behalf of shippers during an 8-hour work abstention enforced by Dock Bandar Sramik Karmachari Federation. "We joined our work at

10:00am today (Monday) after the CPA held meetings with us on Sunday evening and on Monday morning and assured us of ensuring safety and taking action against those involved in the attack," said **C&F Agent Employees Union** President Abul Kahsem.

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The inaugural ceremony of the 10th Annual SANEI Conference, jointly Debate organised by South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI) and Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon Time: 9:30am.

Dissemination meeting

Conference

and HelpAge International will jointly organise a meeting to disseminate the findings of the project 'Realising the rights of older people'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 9:30am. Roundtable

Resource Integration Centre (RIC)

Amra Muktijoddhar Santan

organises a roundtable titled 'Trial of war criminals, politics of Jamaat-Shibir and present context'. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Time: 10:30am. Workshop

Unnayan Shamannay organises a

workshop on the national budget

auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10:00am.

2010-11 and tax on tobacco. Venue:

UDDIPAN in association with Debate for Democracy will organise a mock parliamentary debate on Enactment and proper implementation of disaster management act will strengthen disaster preparedness in Bangladesh'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

Roundtable Bangladesh National Commission

for UNESCO, Ministry of Education and International Mother Language Institute will jointly organise a roundtable titled 'Linguistic diversity of Bangladesh: Use and preservation'. Venue: International Mother Language Institute. Time: 3:00pm.

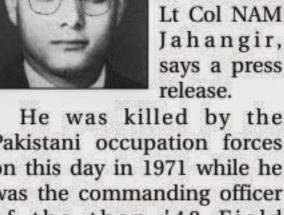
Discussion

South Asia Partnership Bangladesh will hold a two-day discussion on good governance in South Asia beginning today. Venue: WVA

Death anniversary METRO DESK

Today is the





mahfil will be held on April 2

Rokeya would carry out her duties as the acting principal and take all preparations for the Higher Secondary Certificate examinations beginning April 1, said the meeting sources. The meeting viewed that the process of Rokeya's removal was not proper as none of the ministry, Dhaka

renowned institution, the sources added.