

Implement development projects at faster pace

PM asks govt officials

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the government officials not to delay formulating and implementing development projects.

The desired level of development could not be achieved during the seven years of the previous BNP-led alliance government and the caretaker government, she said.

"I want to develop the country at a faster pace. I don't have time to waste," she said during a meeting with newly elected BCS Economic Cadre Association leaders at the Prime Minister's Office.

After the meeting, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters.

Hasina directed the government officials to complete all procedural tasks related to development project proposals quickly.

She said that her government is working hard to overcome the losses incurred

during the BNP-Jamaat alliance government and the caretaker government.

"I need balanced development of the country," she said and asked the government officials to be more careful and sincere in preparing the development projects.

Hasina mentioned that the previous BNP-Jamaat alliance government, during their tenure from 2001 to 2006, scrapped many development projects that were undertaken by her government during the Awami League's previous tenure from 1996 to 2001. "We have to overcome this losses," she said.

She asked the government officials to complete the necessary paperwork for all projects by July to August, after announcement of the budget in June, in anticipation of the rainy season in the country.

She stressed proper planning for all the projects. Referring to the Economic Cadre of the government, she said it has a great role to play regarding the develop-

ment of the country.

She said that the government is working on the 6th five-year plan for the country and asked the government officials to do their best for the welfare of the country and its people.

The prime minister also emphasised the continuation of the current development projects that have been undertaken by the government.

The prime minister said that she wanted to observe the golden jubilee of independence in 2021 in an atmosphere where there will be no poverty, illiteracy and hunger, and the country will have fulfilled her dream of a Digital Bangladesh.

Planning Minister AK Khandaker, Adviser to the Prime Minister HT Imam and Planning Secretary Habibullah Majumder also spoke.

BCS Economic Cadre Association President Fakhru Ahsan placed his association's demands and suggestions in front of the prime minister.



An employee of Wasa prevents children from entering the premises of its water pump station at Fakirapool in the city yesterday as slum dwellers and other disadvantaged people rushed there to collect water amid severe water crisis.

PHOTO: STAR



Students take Bangla first paper examination yesterday, the first day of the HSC and its equivalent exams. The photo was taken at Viharunnisa Noon School and College in the city. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

'Resolve water, power crises immediately'

Final results of 28th BCS exams soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

STAR REPORT

Different social organisations along with people from all walks of life staged demonstrations in the city yesterday demanding smooth supply of water, electricity and gas.

Mohanagar Sammilita Samajik Andolon and Narayanjan Shahaar Unnayan Committee formed separate human chains in the capital and Narayanjan demanding immediate steps to resolve the crises.

Pankaj Bhattacharya, vice-president of Samajik Andolon, at the human chain said thousands of diarrhoea patients have already been admitted to different hospitals daily due to lack of pure drinking water.

The town development committee formed a human chain at Chashara demanding immediate resolution of the crises.

Speakers at the programme said the residents of Narayanjan have been suffering from gas, electricity and water shortages for long.

They gave a threat to the concerned authorities that people would stop giving monthly bills for the utility services, as they do not get the services adequately.

Against this backdrop everywhere, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa)

opened a new pump station at Mirpur section-7 to reduce the water crisis of South Pallabi.

Wasa Chairman Dr Golam Mostafa inaugurated the pump. It is the 546th pump of Dhaka Wasa.

Our Benapole Correspondent said Irri-Boro production might face a setback alarmingly due to nagging load-shedding and low voltage of electricity.

Sources at the agriculture office of Sharsha upazila said they would miss the production target of Irri and Boro paddies on 21,715 hectares of land in 11 unions of the upazila due to the problem.

Palli Bidyut Samity has been giving electricity for two to three hours a day against the daily demand for 15 to 16 hours.

Around 20 irrigation pumps and 10 electric metres were damaged due to fluctuation of power and low voltage within the last 12 days.

Our Noakhali Correspondent adds: The residents of Noakhali, especially the HSC examinees, have been suffering a lot due to 10 to 12 hours' load-shedding every day.

Though load-shedding is on the increase for using more electricity in irrigation, the farmers of Begumganj, Chatkhil and Senbagh are not getting electricity properly.

The final results of 28th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Examinations under Public Service Commission (PSC) will be published soon while the proceedings of 29th BCS will be completed by this year.

"The result of the 28th BCS will be published soon," said an official, adding that though written test and viva voce of 28th BCS were held on time, the result could not be published in due time because of some legal barriers.

The legal barriers have been resolved recently, he added.

The official, however, could not indicate any specific date about the publication of the result.

The 28th BCS preliminary test was held on November 2008 and the result came out on February 1 last year while the written exams ended in May 2009.

'Change attitude towards autistic children'

World Autism Awareness Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Prof Dr MR Khan yesterday called on the people to change their negative attitude towards autistic children and extend their cooperation for rehabilitation of the children.

He also stressed the need for identification of all the autistic children across the country, saying, "The earlier autistic children can be identified, the sooner their rehabilitation can be ensured."

Prof Khan said this at the inaugural session of a two-day autism fair at Russian Centre of Science and Culture in the city on the occasion of the World Autism Awareness Day-2010 to be observed today.

The fair is being jointly organised by Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation (BPF), United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and Russian Centre of Science and Culture.

BPF Executive Director Dr Shamim Ferdous said a survey, which was conducted at Malibagh and Mirpur in 2008, showed that every three children out of 1,000 are autistic.

"The autistic children from insolvent families are deprived of treatment and training, which are provided at different institutes, because these treatment and training are very expensive."

She also sought cooperation from the government and private organisations as well as individuals to ensure proper treatment and training for autistic children.

Dr Shamim called on all to dedicate themselves to create a fair and caring society to

ensure the rights of autistic people and establish their dignity.

Kazi Ali Reza, officer-in-charge of UNIC, presided over the session where M Emamul Haque, head of external relations of World Food Programme, Bangladesh, and Prof Naila Zaman Khan of BPF also spoke.

Cultural events, including group dance of autistic children and magic show, were performed at the inaugural session.

Fifty-three paintings of autistic children and children with disabilities were also displayed at the fair.

To mark the World Autism Awareness Day, different government and non-government organisations will hold elaborate programmes throughout the week.

A discussion, children's gathering and cultural programme will be held at Rabindra Sarobar in the city today, organised by Aparajeyo-Bangladesh, an NGO working with the disadvantaged children.

Autism Welfare Foundation will hold a cultural programme on Sunday and a handicraft fair will start tomorrow and exhibiting goods made by the autistic children that will continue till April 8.

A painting competition will be held on April 5-7 in participation of the students of Kanan, an education centre of the Autism Welfare Foundation that teaches autistic children.

Free dental check up will also be held on April 7 organised by Bangladesh Oral Cancer Foundation and a workshop on autism will be held on April 8.

18 killed in 'crossfire' in 3 months

Says ASK report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighteen people died in 'crossfire' with law enforcement agencies in the last three months, according to a survey report prepared by Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a human rights organisation.

Of them, 11 people died in 'crossfire' by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), four in 'shoot-out' with police while three others in 'encounters' with joint forces of Rab and police.

Besides, 21 inmates -- only four of them were convicts -- died in the prison between January 1 and March 31, the report said.

During the period, cases were filed against nine journalists for publishing reports while 20 others received death threats.

Criminals, law enforcers, ruling party men and Jamaat-Shibir men sent various kinds of threats to 74 journalists during the three-month period, said the ASK report.

About violence against women, the report said 130 women were raped and 15 of them were killed.

Some 39 women were killed over dowry and 65 other women tortured in dowry-related incidents.

Mahmudur files 42cr damage suit against home ministry

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Acting Editor of the Amar Desh and former energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman yesterday filed a 42 crore damage suit against the home ministry, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder and officer-in-charge (immigration) of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport Azizur Rahman with a Dhaka court.

Mahmudur Rahman, as a vice chairman of Artisan Ceramics Ltd, filed the suit with the First Joint District Judge's Court against the defendants for barring him from going abroad on February 9.

After a hearing, Judge Imrul Kayesh set April 15 as the date for the plaintiff to submit the court fee.

ARSHI-CARE Creative Awards 2010

theme **MEN** The way we... See... Experience... Think...

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ARSHI-CARE Bangladesh is going to launch a grand contest that will cover Photography, Poster Design, Short Film, Cartoon, Painting, and Creative Writing. The contest is open for all. Anyone is welcome to participate here independent of his or her gender, age, education, sexual orientation, etc.

Contest Details

The contest is inviting entries under six different categories. Categories and necessary information are suggested below:

Photography

Participants are allowed to submit a maximum of 3 entries per person. The participants should be submit photographs both into a good quality 5R size print and at least 300 DPI image in JPEG format in a CD/DVD.

Poster Design

Participants are allowed to create the posters in any medium. The poster size is fixed to 20"x18". Participants should send the original version(s) of the design.

Short Film

Both Documentary and Fiction films are allowed to be submitted regardless of their file format. Submissions must be in DVD format for preview purpose. The film duration should not exceed 5 minutes. However, even a one-minute film could ring the bell due to it's innovations.

Cartoon

Cartoons are allowed in any medium. The cartoon size is fixed into 11"x8". Original version(s) of the cartoon(s) should be sent.

Painting

Participants are allowed to submit paintings in any medium fixed into 24"x36" size. Original version of the painting should send.

Creative-writing

Creative Writing is independent from any demarcation of forms: Poetry, Essay, Short Story, Free Verse, Lyrics, etc. - you can use whichever form you feel as appropriate for you. The length of the writing should not exceed 1200 words.

Rules and Regulations

All entries must reach within April 25, 2010. One can send entries for multiple categories. Write your Name, Address, Phone Number, and Email Address in Block Letters. Personal contact is strongly discouraged. Any persuasion will result in immediate disqualification.

Contest Awards

A jury board consisting of renowned specialists from specific field will judge the submissions. Three entries will be awarded into each category. Grand Award: Taka 50,000; First Runner: Up Taka 30,000; Second Runner Up: Taka 20,000.

Important Note:

Submissions must be original and unpublished work of the artists in every category. No submission can be returned to the participants. All selected entries will become the property of ARSHI-CARE, Bangladesh. The organizers will gain rights over any form of usage. But whenever they will be used the name of the creators will be acknowledged.

Submit your work(s) in an envelope titled as "ARSHI-CARE Creative Award 2010" to the following address physically or through mail:
 CARE Bangladesh
 Progoti (RPR) Centre (9th floor)
 20-21 Karwanbazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh
 For soft copy of this advertisement go to www.carebangladesh.org

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