



Shaheed Ahsanullah Master Flyover in Tongi opens to traffic yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Khaleda's call to officials aims to impede development: PM

UNB, Tongi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused opposition leader Khaleda Zia of warning officials not to sign files in order to impede development, saying that such threat could not halt the current pace of development.

"The opposition leader wants to obstruct the development process by asking the officials not to sign files and issuing threats to sue them...whatever be the threat, the present trend of development won't stop," she told a rally at Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) maidan after inaugurating Shaheed Ahsanullah Master Flyover for public.

Criticising Khaleda's hartal call for June 27, Hasina said war criminals who committed crimes against humanity in 1971 cannot be protected by calling hartal or agitation. "Trial of war criminals is the public demand," she said, adding that Khaleda had always tried to "trample" the people's demand in the past but failed. "This time she won't succeed either. She always takes the opposite route against the will of the people," Hasina told the public

rally. She alleged that Khaleda's husband, Ziaur Rahman, had tried to save the killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by introducing indemnity law, but ultimately could not succeed. "You (Khaleda) also won't be able to save the war criminals," she said. Recalling the brutal killing of Awami League leader Ahsanullah Master, she said the witness of the murder case was also killed and the police officer, who found evidence of the BNP terrorists' involvement in the murder, was implicated in a fake incident of bribery. She also alleged that some 21,000 AL leaders and activists were killed during the BNP-Jamaat misrule. Hasina, also the ruling party president, said when the BNP-Jamaat alliance comes to power they establish a "rein of terror" across the country. "But when AL comes to power, it works for the people and for their development." She said during her last tenure, price of rice was Tk 10 per kg, but later during the five years the BNP-Jamaat alliance had taken the price to Tk 45 per kg. "This was the result of their

endless corruption and negligence towards people." The PM said the last AL government had facilitated workers with partial ownership of mills and factories, but the next four-party alliance government had shut down most of the industries. "Now again when we are voted to power, we are giving rations to the garments workers," she said. Referring to various allegations of the opposition leader over government's activities relating to electricity and food price, Hasina said: "Khaleda is champion in telling lies... the person who do not hesitate to tell lie over her birthday and who has several birthdays can tell lies about everything." She renewed her allegation that Khaleda and her two sons have amassed huge money through corruption and that's why they had to give fine to whiten their illegally earned money. "Khaleda had to live on widow allowance and her two sons had to take orphan allowance. Where from they amassed so much money?" the prime minister said.

Hasina also alleged that it was Ziaur Rahman who had spoiled the country's student politics by giving arms and illegal money to the students. She reiterated her government's strong commitment to free the country's youths from the curse of drugs. On militancy, the PM said Khaleda, her party and political alliance, had "patronised militancy" in Bangladesh. In this regard, she mentioned that 10 trucks loaded with arms and ammunition were recovered and bombs blasted at 500 places at a time during the BNP-Jamaat alliance government. "Without government's collaboration, it is not possible to make such incidents happen," she said. Hasina further accused the opposition leader and her party of always trying to destroy democracy in the country. She said in 2001, the BNP-Jamaat alliance came to power by giving "commitment of selling gas and oil to another country and in 2006, they tried to rig the election with 1.23 crore fake voters in the electoral roll." "But people did not allow them to play game with their fate," she added.



Nirapad Noujan Bastabayan Andolon and Nongar form a human chain at Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday urging the government to declare May 23 as the River Safety Day. The programme was organised in memory of the victims of Meghna launch accident that occurred on this day in 2004.

AUDIO, VIDEO FILMS HC asks govt to submit report on steps to stop piracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the government to submit a report on the steps it has taken to stop piracy of audio and video films and other documents every month to this court.

It also issued a rule upon the government to explain within three weeks why it should not be directed to properly enforce the copyright law to stop the piracy and to confiscate all the pirated copies of the films and documents.

An HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Md Delwar Hossain passed the order upon a writ petition stating that compact discs (CDs) on the pirated copies of films and other documents are being sold in the market damaging the film and music industries.

President of Bangladesh Film Production and Distribution Association Gazi Mazharul Anwar and secretary of Bangladesh Music Industries Owners Association Sheikh Shahed Ali jointly filed the writ petition.

Secretaries to the ministries of home, industries, finance, commerce, cultural affairs, information, science and technology, inspector general of police, director general of rapid action battalion, chairman and registrar of copyright board have made respondents in the order and rule. Barrister Rabiul Hasan and Barrister Mehedi Hasan appeared for the petitioners, Deputy Attorney General Nazrul Islam Talukder stood for the government.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES 'Implement RTI law to ensure transparency'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proper implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) law is a must to ensure transparency in development programmes, Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said at a roundtable yesterday. "We have learned of housing problems in cyclone Aila-affected areas, but we don't have enough information about health, education and security facilities for Aila victims in the area," he said. He also suggested improving the disaster management and giving priority to river management. Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) organised the roundtable on 'Failure in rehabilitation and humanitarian crisis in the Aila-hit areas: What are the responsibilities?' at Mukti Bhaban at Paltan in the city. Cyclone Aila hit the south-western coastal belt of the

country on May 25 last year, killing about 190 people. The people of the areas are still facing various problems. Presenting the keynote paper, Prof M Shahidul Islam said failure to rehabilitate Aila victims, not the natural disaster, is the main reason behind the humanitarian crisis in Aila-hit areas. He also expressed concern that the Aila victims are yet to be rehabilitated properly even one year into the cyclone Aila. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury said the people affected by cyclone Sidr and Aila should be considered as climate migrants and pressure should be put on developed countries to have a responsibility to them. Bapa General Secretary Dr Muhammad Abdul Matin, Ferdous-ur Rahman, Advocate Feroj Ahmed, Prof Dr Farhana Sultana and MD Jamal Uddin also spoke.

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK Babar appeals for bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detained former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar yesterday filed an appeal seeking bail with a Dhaka Sessions Court in connection with August 21, 2004 grenade attack case. Counsels for the BNP leader filed the appeal with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court against the rejection order of the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on May 5. After the hearing, Judge (in charge) Mohammad Ismail Hossain fixed June 1 for full hearing on the appeal. Babar was shown arrested in the case on October 26 last year and later he was remanded on several times. The brutal grenade attacks took place when Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina was addressing a rally on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004. Hasina narrowly escaped the attack but 23 of her party leaders and workers were killed and over 300 were maimed. On August 3 last year, a Dhaka court ordered the inspector general of police to reinvestigate the cases after the prosecution filed petitions for identifying the persons who had procured and supplied the grenades used in the carnage.

Indigenous people's mode of work lesson for others Says president

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday called for taking integrated efforts of all, including the indigenous people, for holistic development of the country. The president gave the call when State Minister for Cultural Affairs Pramod Mankin MP made a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban. Zillur said the cultural heritage of the country's indigenous people is very rich and their lifestyle along with their mode of work -- equal responsibility of work between men and women -- could be a lesson for others. "The lifestyle of matriarch indigenous

people could encourage the country's female community to involve them in the development activities," he said. The president expressed the hope that the cultural heritage of the indigenous people would be gradually developed, so it could contribute more to the nation building activities. The Cultural Affairs Minister invited the President to attend the programmes of the birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam to be held at Trishal in Mymensingh on May 25. The president consented to attend the programme. Secretaries concerned at the president's office were present at the meeting.

Looking for a Dynamic Career? Look Further; Go Beyond with The Daily Star

The Daily Star has become the highest circulated, most respected credible English newspaper of Bangladesh over the years. Presently the Internet edition is the most widely browsed Web page by the Bangladeshi nationals living abroad and it is frequently quoted in national and international journals, seminars, research papers as the most trusted and authentic source of news. It is the highest taxpayer media organization. The Daily Star has become the most sought-after and respected media house for professionals in the country.

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• Advanced degree in Human Resources Management or related field a plus.

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• Excellent Interpersonal communication in English/Bengali with strong sense of responsibilities.
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Education

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CYCLONE AILA

Call for long-term rehabilitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a policy dialogue on cyclone Aila yesterday called upon the government, development partners and the international community to reconstruct the embankments with an updated embankment policy.

They also called for taking a long-term rehabilitation programme with allocation of the budget for the coming fiscal year.

The recommendations were made at the dialogue titled 'Swelled sufferings: Challenges after one year of Aila' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

The Emergency Capacity Building (ECB) Project Bangladesh Consortium, a

consortium of six international NGOs including Oxfam, CARE, Catholic Relief Service, Concern Worldwide, World Vision and Save the Children, in association with the Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL), a network of 200 local, national and international development and civil society organisations and European Commission Humanitarian Office's partners responding to Aila jointly organised the discussion.

Speakers termed the sufferings of Aila-affected people extreme humanitarian crisis.

Mohammad Sayedul Haque, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on food and disaster manage-

ment, spoke at the programme as the chief guest.

Ahsan Zakir, director general of the Disaster Management Bureau; Aminul Islam, assistant country director of the Environment and Disaster Management Programme of the UNDP; and three lawmakers from Khulna region -- Nani Gopal Mondal, Nazrul Islam Monju and Sohrab Ali Sana -- attended the discussion as the special guests.

Ziaul Hoque Mukta, member secretary of the CSRL moderated the session with Harun or Rashid, ECB Bangladesh Manager, giving the welcome address.

Oxfam GB Country Director Gareth Price Jones gave the vote of thanks in the discussion.