

Help fight

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To address the electricity problem, the premier sought more foreign investment in this sector, saying that her government is creating a congenial investment atmosphere in the country.

She said that her government has formulated a new national education policy putting emphasis on science and technology-based education.

The government, Hasina said, is determined to achieve cent percent literacy in the country by 2014 and introduced school feeding system to prevent dropout and increase enrolment, which is yielding positive result. She also sought British cooperation in this regard.

She mentioned that the present government is channelling more fund for improving the lifestyle of rural people.

The fund will be given for enhancing school enrolment, ensuring safe drinking water and sanitation as well as for capacity building of police and election commission, she added.

Thanking the premier for her all out support in establishing Asian University for Women in Chittagong, Duncan requested her to provide a piece of land to the Acid Survivors Foundation for building a world class hospital with joint collaboration of the foundation and the British government.

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Stephan Evans, Ambassador-at-Large M Ziauddin and Secretary to the PM's Office Molla Waheeduzzaman, among others, were present.

Mob beats

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house of Khalil Miah and held the family members hostage at gunpoint at about 1:00am.

At one stage of looting, the robbers stabbed Khalil's two sons - Badal and Salauddin indiscriminately as they tried to resist the miscreants.

Hearing the scream of family members, neighbours announced the presence of dacoits by a loud speaker and surrounded the house.

When the robbers tried to flee the scene, angry mob caught two of them after a chase and beat them, leaving the two dead on the spot.

The injured two brothers were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Police sent the bodies of two robbers to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsies.

CID warned

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Begum Chamom Chowdhury of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court granted 10 days' time to complete the probe into the killing case.

Time will not be extended anymore, the judges said when chief counsel of the prosecution Syed Rezaur Rahman completed his arguments before the courts.

Both the judges passed the order after CID's Special Superintendent of Police Abdul Kader Akand, also the investigation officer (IO) of the cases, submitted time petitions on Tuesday.

The courts have so far given over 22 months' time for the CID to finish further investigation into the cases.

During further investigation, 12 people including former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar and Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid were arrested in connection with the cases.

B N P leader S Q Chowdhury was also interrogated at the jail gate in this connection.

Militant links

Four Pakistani majors questioned

REUTERS, Islamabad

UK wants

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Replies to a question on the political situation and the issue of caretaker government at the press conference, he said they want to see free, fair and honest elections in future, but the issue of caretaker government depends on the people of Bangladesh to decide.

Duncan also hoped democracy in Bangladesh will be nourished with a vision of future, rather than venom of disliking each other as opponents.

At the press conference, he said the UK has already pledged one billion pound sterling as development aid for Bangladesh over the next four years. He suggested effective delivery system and establishment of rule of law at all levels to implement the development projects.

Asked if the UK would mediate to resolve the dispute between the government and the opposition as it did in 2007, he said, "We did not mediate and that is not our role."

Duncan yesterday met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Finance Minister AMA Muhith and State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud.

Asked about his views after the meetings with the prime minister and the leader of the opposition, Duncan said he would encourage both the political parties (ruling Awami League and main opposition BNP) and their supporters "to look at politics differently and serve the people."

He went on, "Focus less on how to attack opposition," as in the end politicians have to look to the future and not to the past.

He told journalists after meeting Khaleda Zia, "It (holding free and fair elections) is an internal matter of Bangladesh. As a minister of another country, I have nothing to say but I hope

Eight Afghan police killed in checkpoint attack

AFP, Ghazni

Eight Afghan police were killed yesterday when Taliban attacked their checkpoint in a brazen assault likely to raise fresh security questions as the United States prepares a troop drawdown.

The attack in Ghazni province's Qarabagh district, about 120 kilometres southwest of Kabul, is thought to have been an inside job in which insurgents worked with a policeman at the checkpoint to strike.

The attack started at around 7:00am local time and six police officers were killed during a gunfight with the attackers," Said Amir Shah, the head of Afghanistan's intelligence agency in Ghazni province, told AFP.

He later said the toll had risen to eight and the fighting had stopped.

Mohammad Ali Ahmad, the deputy provincial governor of Ghazni, confirmed the number of dead.

He added: "Probably one of the police officers at the checkpoint had a previous deal with the insurgents and cooperated with and facilitated the assault."

She sees daughter

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Anusha as she got closer. Without waiting for an answer, she then felt Anusha's dress to figure it out for herself. "Oh! You put on a short skirt," she said and kissed Anusha. Anusha kissed back.

Rumana's mother stepped in to satisfy Rumana's curiosity and said her daughter was wearing a skirt over a blue jeans and a black top.

"Will you stay with me for long today?" Rumana asked. The daughter said she would.

Just half an hour before the meeting of the mother and the daughter, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury visited Rumana around 1:45pm yesterday.

"Please pray for me so that I can see my daughter again," she told the minister holding her hands.

"He [Sumon] has not let me see my daughter for a long time."

She told Matia how she returned from Canada on May 12 just to see her daughter after nine months.

"I want everyone's blessings so that I can see again, and bring up my daughter properly."

India detains 14 Somali pirates

AFP, Ahmedabad

Indian police said yesterday they would charge 14 suspected Somali pirates and their three hostages who drifted to within kilometres of the country's west coast in a fishing boat.

A senior police official said that investigators believed three Yemeni men found on an inside job were hostages of the alleged pirates, who are believed to have hijacked the vessel two weeks ago off the coast of Somalia.

The Yemenis told police the boat had been adrift in the Indian Ocean after running out of fuel and had been carried to the Indian coast by the tide.

All 17 men were detained in the coastal district of Junagarh in Gujarat state, some 300 kilometres southwest from the main regional city of Ahmedabad.

He said police would press charges against the Somalis and their captives for entering India without valid travel documents.

AL's founding

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give it a secular colour.

Awami League led all democratic movements of then East Pakistan from the 1952 Language Movement to the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971 under the leadership of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The national and party flags will be hoisted at all AL offices across the country today. The party will also place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi at 7:30am and hold a discussion at 11:00pm at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the discussion.

AL's all organisational units will simultaneously observe the day through bringing out colourful processions and holding discussions and rallies. Besides, Bangabandhu's landmark speeches including historic 7 March speech will be played through loud speakers in all ward units in the capital.

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Nazmul Huda

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hesitation, he said in a statement yesterday.

"And the talks should be held outside parliament with active participation of the two top leaders [BNP chief Khaleda Zia and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina]," the statement read.

According to him, a chance for talks on holding free and fair elections has been created after the Supreme Court has scrapped the system, and BNP should use this opportunity.

Huda, a former member of the party standing committee, said the Election Commission can play a vital role in getting the two leaders on the table.

In the statement, he apologised for "expressing his personal opinion", which he had to do for "lack of opportunity".

Nazmul Huda, who was twice minister, was expelled from BNP on November 21, 2010, for "breaking party discipline". His primary membership in the party, however, was reinstated on April 6 this year.

31st BCS exams

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Mir Mosharraf Hossain, public relations officer of Public Service Commission, told The Daily Star.

A total of 141,465 candidates sat in the examination on May 27 to vie for 2,108 vacant posts under general and professional or technical cadres.

The country's biggest government job recruitment examinations were held in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Khulna and Barisal cities.

KL to fingerprint

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The regularisation will start shortly and will be completed in three months, said the ministry at a meeting with representatives of the labour-sending countries.

Those working in Malaysia illegally will have two weeks to register without facing any repercussions, the deputy prime minister said.

"There will be no action taken against them (if they surrender within two weeks)," Muhyiddin told reporters after chairing a special Cabinet meeting on foreign workers.

He, however, could not say how many were expected to surrender, or how many job positions would need to be filled.

The amnesty will protect the workers from unscrupulous agents who might help them travel and work illegally for a substantial fee, officials said.

Taking fingerprints will also allow the government to keep tabs on foreigners if they attempt to enter the country in the future under a different name, they added.

Authorities estimate there are some two million illegal immigrants working in Malaysia.

4 pirates killed

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The elite force seized four light guns, two 9mm pistols, one shotgun, one single barrel gun, 141 bullets and a trawler used by the pirates from the spot in Bagerhat district.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab personnel went to Boro Shela Khal in Supot on three trawlers and challenged a gang of at least eight pirates who were roaming around the area on a trawler around 9:30am.

The gang opened fire on the law enforcers prompting them to fire back, said Major Sabir.

The four were killed on the spot during a one and a half hours long gunfight.

The other pirates disembarked on the bank of the canal and fled the scene, he added.

Later, Rab members recovered the bodies and seized the firearms.

Khandaker Rafiqul Islam, superintendent of police of Bagerhat, said Jalfikar was accused in four cases including murder and abduction.

A team of law enforcers from Sharankhola Police Station started for the spot in the afternoon.

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