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No scope to leave women behind: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for equal development of the country's womenfolk as there is no scope to leave them behind in the name of religion.

"There's no scope to leave one behind or keep one ignorant in the name of religion," she told a function at the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

The women and children affairs ministry organised the programme to mark the International Women's Day.

Hasina described various contributions of Hazrat Ayesha, Bibi Khadiza and Hazrat Sumaiya to society.

"It's Islam which has ensured women's rights to the property of their parents and husbands, which has not been done by any other religion.

"It's impossible to take forward the society by prioritising its one section and neglecting another. We must develop all the sections of a society for sustainable development," she mentioned.

The PM called upon the womenfolk to build their own fate shunning dependence on others. "You'll get the dignity when you'll be able to build your own fate and move ahead with self-confidence."

With efforts from all people, Hasina said, it would be possible to build the country as a poverty- and hunger-free Golden Bengal as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The government has been working to further uphold the

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina browses products made by women at a stall at the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday. The producers set up the displays as part of a programme on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

DEFAMATION CASE Star editor gets bail in Magura

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam obtained bail in a Tk 50,000-crore defamation case in Magura yesterday.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Imtiazul Islam passed the order after Anam appeared before the court and petitioned for bail.

The court fixed May 19 for the next hearing on the case.

On February 18, Sohrab Hossain Sabuj, district unit joint secretary of pro-Awami League student body Chhatra League, filed the defamation suit.

It is one of the 79 cases that have been filed against the Star editor in 53 districts since February 9. Of the cases, 17 are pleas for bringing sedition charges against him. The complaints cite Tk 132,811 crore as losses incurred due to defamation.

The case spree began after Anam at a TV talk show on February 3 made an introspective comment about a

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Victims content

Call for quick execution of Mir Quasem

DWAIPAYAN BARUA and ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Freedom fighter Syed Mohammad Emran had always believed that Mir Quasem Ali's political clout and enormous wealth would fail to save the war criminal in the end.

Emran, who was brutally tortured at a Chittagong camp controlled by Quasem during the 1971 Liberation War, never lost hope.

And yesterday, the 65-year-old was greatly relieved as the Supreme Court upheld the Jamaat leader's death sentence given by the International Crimes Tribunal for war crimes.

"You will get punishment for your misdeeds no matter how powerful or influential you are," he said in his reaction to the verdict. "It's a victory for truth."

Emran also said he was delighted as much as he is on Eid days after the SC verdict was pronounced. "It's like I am meeting my parents after being released from that torture camp."

On November 30 in 1971, Al-Badr men picked up Emran, commander of Bangladesh Liberation Force (BLF) in Chittagong city, along with his five brothers from their home in Chandgaon area.

They were taken to Mahamaya Dalim Hotel, the headquarters of the auxiliary force of Pakistan Army in the port city.

The brothers were beaten mercilessly and given electric shocks at the hotel, used as a torture camp



Mohammad Emran



Hasina Khatun

controlled by Quasem.

There, Emran said, the Jamaat leader himself interrogated him several times to know the whereabouts of his fellow freedom fighters.

The victim now wants to see the quick execution of the SC verdict.

Seventy-four-year-old Hasina Khatun, cousin of teenage freedom fighter Jasim Uddin, who was tortured and killed at Mahamaya Dalim Hotel, termed the verdict "a great achievement in her life". Quasem was given death penalty for the killing.

Hasina had been sitting in front of the television set in her daughter's home on Pathantuli Road since morning. She wants to see Quasem hanged for his heinous crimes.

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AL hails SC verdict, BNP keeps mum

Jamaat calls hartal for today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League has welcomed the Supreme Court verdict upholding Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali's death penalty for war crimes.

The BNP, however, kept mum like it did in the past after judgments were delivered in war crimes cases against other Jamaat leaders.

Jamaat, meanwhile, has called a daylong countrywide shutdown for today, protesting and condemning "the government's conspiracy to kill Quasem", a member of the Islamist party's central executive council.

The call was posted on the party's website yesterday following the Appellate Division verdict that confirmed the death sentence awarded to the former Al-Badr leader by the International Crimes Tribunal in November 2014.

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Govt to tighten airport security

Tk 89cr project okayed for purchasing equipment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will purchase security equipment to ensure no explosives, firearms, and dangerous devices, goods, or objects slip through the three international airports.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council, led by the prime minister, yesterday approved a Tk 89.55 crore project for buying the equipment.

The project piloted by the civil aviation ministry would be implemented this year.

Under the project, two sets of explosive detection system, six sets of liquid explosive detection system, eight sets of dual view x-ray scanning machines, 14 sets of dual view x-ray scanning machine for cabin baggage, nine sets of under vehicles scanning machine, 14 sets of explosive trace detectors, five barrier gates, and four sets of flap barriers would be bought.

The security apparatus will be set up at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Sylhet MAG Osmani Airport, and Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong as soon as possible to upgrade the security to international standards, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) officials said.

Air-Vice Marshal M Sanaul Haque, chairman of Caab, recently said, "We have shortage of equipment which we pointed out to our ministry."

The government undertook the project after aviation security teams from the US and the UK inspected the airports on different occasions and expressed serious concern over the security lapses and risks.

In November, December, and in February, UK aviation security department's representatives visited Dhaka and recommended making a plan for sustainable security at the airport with specified time for execution.

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WITNESS TO QUASEM'S BRUTALITY



This nondescript three-storey building, the Mahamaya Dalim Bhaban at Anderkilla, in Chittagong was the headquarters and torture chamber of the Al-Badr in the district in 1971. Led by Mir Quasem Ali, Al-Badr men took over the building during the Liberation War and used it to confine, torture and kill freedom fighters and pro-liberation people. Quasem's death sentence was upheld by the Supreme Court yesterday.

'JMB man' killed in 'gunfight'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was killed in a "gunfight" with detectives at Khilgaon in the capital early yesterday.

Law enforcers identified him as Pias, 30, a member of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh.

The "gunfight" took place around 3:30am near Khidma Hospital, said Kazi Mainul Hossain, officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station.

Some four to five youths, including the dead, were loitering in the area at the time. On information,

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Penguin who meets his human soul mate every year



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Four years ago, Joao Pereira de Souza, 71, found a South American Magellanic penguin covered in oil and starving on a beach on an island off the coast of Rio de Janeiro. A friendship was born.

Since they met in 2011, the creature, which normally breeds on the Patagonia coasts of Argentina and Chile, three to five thousand miles away, has become a faithful companion, swimming every year from its habitat to spend up to eight months living with the retired fisherman in his house on the island.

"I love the penguin like it's my own child and I believe the penguin loves me," said Pereira de Souza in an interview with Globo TV, in which the bird honks with delight as he recognises his human friend. "No one else is allowed to touch him. He pecks them if they do. He lays on my lap, lets me give him showers, allows me to feed him sardines and to

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PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 9

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-15	12-45	4-30	6-05	7-30
JAMAAT 5-50	1-15	4-45	6-10	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION