



PEOPLE'S SUFFERINGS

Govt doing whatever necessary

PM tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday categorically said the government was doing whatever needed to ease people's sufferings caused by the current economic situation.

She made the comment while participating in a general discussion at the Jatiya Sangsad on a proposal placed by opposition Jatiya Party MP Mujibul Haque Chhunu.

The lawmaker placed the proposal on informing the nation through discussion in parliament about the short and long term sustainable measures taken by the government to deal with the problems of the pandemic, Ukraine-Russia war, climate change, energy crisis, and rising commodity prices.

The PM briefly described numerous initiatives taken by the government to tackle the situation.

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Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing a programme, jointly organised by the party's Dhaka north and south city units, marking the National Mourning Day at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday. Standing by her side are her nephews -- Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash and his brother Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh -- who also lost their parents in the August 15 bloodbath in 1975.

PHOTO: PID

Dev projects now ways to loot money

Says Debapriya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Development projects by the government have now become a way of looting money, said Debapriya Bhattacharya, a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Usually, when capitalism evolves in a country, some people loot money in various ways, he said while addressing a dialogue organised by the Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF) at its auditorium in the capital yesterday.

In the initial stage of capitalism, this looting is common, he said, adding it has been done in the 1990s using the development financial institutions like Shilpa Bank.

With the political patronage, a vested group took loans and did not repay those and thus, "launched the default loan culture in the country", said the eminent economist.

In 1996, the stock market was another way of looting people's money. Besides, low-performing companies were allowed to raise funds from the stock market, he said, adding that the companies' shares later became junk stock.

At present, several individuals,

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Sporadic clashes mark BNP's countrywide protest

Abdul Awal Mintoo's motorcade attacked in Feni

STAR REPORT

BNP leaders and activists came under attacks allegedly by the Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League men during its countrywide demonstrations yesterday protesting the price hike of essentials and fuel.

At least 15 BNP men were injured in clashes with the ruling party men and police, they said.

In Feni, a motorcade of BNP leaders, led by Vice-chairman Abdul Awal Mintoo, came under attack near Iqbal Memorial College road in Daganbhuiyan upazila around 4:00pm yesterday, alleged Akbar Hossen, president of Daganbhuiyan Upazila BNP.

BCL and JL men carried out the attack when the BNP leaders were heading towards Alaiarpur Primary School to join a protest rally.

At least 15 BNP activists were injured in separate attacks in Daganbhuiyan, claimed Akbar.

Daganbhuiyan municipality's Mayor Omar Faruk, also the general secretary of the municipality unit AL, denied the allegations.

He said his party activists took position in some areas of the upazila so that no untoward incident occurs.

Earlier on the day, police fired teargas shells during an hour-long clash between BNP activists and law enforcers in Feni town's Paschim Bazar area.

Police claimed that the clash broke out when BNP supporters, who gathered there to join a protest rally, threw brick chunks at them.

Khaled Hossen, officer-in-charge of Sonagazi Model Police Station, said they used teargas shells to bring the situation under control.

Police filed a case against 100 people, including 50 unnamed, in connection with the clash, the OC added.

In Natore's Singra upazila, BNP leaders alleged that AL activists attacked Jubo Dal leader Tipu Sultan, leaving him injured.

They also alleged that police obstructed party men from bringing out a procession to join a protest rally in the district town.

In Narayanganj, Rupganj upazila BNP alleged that JL leaders vandalised a hotel owned by Omar Hossen, general secretary of Golakandail Union Parishad in Rupganj.

BNP leaders and activists in Rangamati held protests defying section 144 as police were seen taking a soft stance on the demonstrations.

The Rangamati district administration imposed section 144 barring all from holding any programme as both the BNP and the AL declared holding rallies at the same venue.

The ban was imposed in Juraichari, Langadu, and Kaptai upazilas of Rangamati and in Ramgor upazila of Khagrachhari. Local BNP men, however, organised rallies in those areas defying the ban.

In Narsingdi, police filed a case against 223 people including BNP's former lawmaker Sardar Shakhawat Hossain Bokul last night on charges of attacking police, vandalising properties, and exploding cocktails on Sunday.

Of the accused, 73 are named BNP men and 150 unnamed.

MASS MEDIA BILL

House body gets another 60 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on information and broadcast ministry yesterday got another 60 days to examine the much-debated Mass Media Employees (Services Conditions) Bill 2022.

Earlier on June 6, the parliamentary watchdog was given 60 days to examine the bill and report to the house.

But the standing committee is yet to sit for a meeting to pore over the bill, which was placed by Hasanul Huq Inu, the information and broadcast minister, on March 28, said parliamentary officials on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Subsequently, Inu, the chairman of the committee, sought additional time in the parliament.

Various journalist organisations and media owners' association as well as the Transparency

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Student killed in crash on Hanif flyover

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college student died and her in-law was injured after a bus hit their motorcycle on Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover in the capital yesterday afternoon.

They were on their way to a restaurant to celebrate the wedding anniversary of their siblings, who were riding alongside on another motorcycle when the accident took place.

The deceased was Sadia Afrin Urmī, 22, a third-year marketing student of Government Titumir College.

The accident happened around 3:30pm when the bus hit their motorcycle from behind on the flyover, said Nazmul Islam, the biker who survived with injuries to his leg.

They were on their way to celebrate the wedding anniversary of Urmī's sister and Nazmul's brother.

"Four of us, on two motorcycles, were heading to 300 feet area [on the Purbachal highway] to celebrate at a restaurant," he said while receiving treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

He said they lived in Dholaiarpur, where Urmī and her side of the family came to celebrate the occasion.

Both were rushed to the DMCH where doctors declared Urmī dead around 4:15pm.

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4-year-old killed in Keraniganj fire

5 of her family suffer burns; gas leak suspected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-year-old girl died after suffering burn injuries in a fire that broke out at a house in Dhaka's Keraniganj upazila early yesterday.

Five of her family members also suffered burn injuries and are in critical condition.

The fire is believed to have originated from a gas leak in their home, fire service officials said.

The child, Mariam Akter, was declared dead around 1:30pm, hours after she was admitted to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery with 60 percent burns on her body, said Partha Sanker Paul, resident surgeon of the burn institute.

The injured are Mariam's maternal grandmother Begum, 60, mother Sonia Akter, 26, cousins Shahadat Hossain, 20, and Yeasin, 12, and another relative Panna Begum, 50.

All of them are in critical condition, with burn percentages ranging from 23 to 52, and are currently under treatment at the hospital, the surgeon said.

According to family sources, Sonia took Mariam to visit Begum's home recently. The fire broke out yesterday morning.

Mariam's father Osman Gani and her older brother were at their home at the time of the incident.

Osman, a trucker, said he could not inform his wife about Mariam's death in fear of her health deteriorating.

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MYANMAR BORDER

Tension over 'firing, flying of chopper'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Myanmar forces yesterday allegedly fired several shots that hit different hilly areas of Ghumdhum union of Bandarban's Naikhongchhari upazila.

However, none was hurt in the incident, said villagers.

In another incident, a Myanmar helicopter intruded around 300 to 400 yards into Bangladeshi airspace near the Bangladesh-Myanmar border several times.

These incidents occurred near Baishfari border between 11:00am and 2:00pm yesterday, said Md Jahangir Aziz, chairman of Ghumdhum Union Parishad.

"Locals saw a Myanmar helicopter intruding into Bangladeshi airspace several times. But no shot was fired from it.

"Rather, several shots were fired from Myanmar at that time. Some bullets hit hilly areas in our union," said the UP chairman.

He said Border Guard Bangladesh teams beefed up patrols in the area.

Jahangir said villagers have been hearing sounds of massive firing in Myanmar over the last two weeks.

Contacted, BGB headquarters Director (operation) Lt Col Faizur Rahman said they heard about the incidents from different sources and that they were working to collect more information on those.

He said details on the incidents would be shared with the media later.

A foreign ministry official told The Daily Star that they received information from BGB that a Myanmar helicopter was seen flying in Myanmar's airspace along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

The official said they would discuss the matter today and decide the next course of action.

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The entrance to the Emergency Unit of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital has become narrow as the authorities set up a road divider on the approach road. Besides, the illegally grabbed footpaths add to the sufferings of pedestrians who often have to get on the road to pass the area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

HC orders taking down six fake news videos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to immediately take six fake news videos down from Facebook and YouTube over the fuel price hike.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and Digital Security Agency were asked to take necessary steps and submit a report to the HC in two weeks.

The HC also directed BTRC and the Digital Security Agency to formulate an accountability mechanism to prevent the spread of such misinformation.

The bench of Justice Md Khasruzzaman and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton delivered the order after hearing a writ petition regarding this issue.

Lawyers Munshi Moniruzzaman and Arifat Hossain Khan appeared for the writ petitioners while Deputy Attorney General Bepul Bagmar represented

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