



PHOTO: PID
Newly appointed High Commissioner of Brunei Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Hamid paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

Enhance bilateral trade, investment

PM urges Brunei

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged Brunei to make the best use of the historical and excellent relations between the two countries for the welfare of two peoples through enhancing bilateral trade and investment. She made the request when newly appointed High Commissioner of Brunei Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Hamid paid a courtesy call on her at her office. The prime minister also suggested that Brunei can import quality products such as foods,

medicine, leather and leather goods, jute and jute goods and ceramics at a competitive price from Bangladesh. Brunei can invest in Bangladesh taking advantage of an investment-friendly atmosphere and incentives offered by the government, she added. In response, the high commissioner said he would make efforts to encourage his country's business community to take initiative in this regard. He also stressed exchange of business delegations between the two countries to explore business potential as

well as to increase trade and business. The envoy apprised the PM that many Bangladeshi expatriates are working in Brunei as university teachers, physicians and engineers with good reputation. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said Brunei can recruit more professionals as well as skilled and semi-skilled manpower from Bangladesh. Introduction of direct air service between the two countries was also discussed at the meeting.

68 pc under-5 rural children suffer from anaemia

Study reveals

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Sixty-eight per cent of rural children under age five have been suffering from anaemia, according to a study carried out by a public-private partnership. "Anemia has long been identified as a severe public health problem in Bangladesh and the recent anaemia prevalence was higher than that of a similar survey conducted in 2001 which leads to low birth weight, impairs growth and brain

development, and low work productivity," it said. Conducted by The Helen Keller International in collaboration with the Institute of Public Health Nutrition, the study suggested that the government should take a nation-wide strategy to prevent anaemia. Referring to the decline in economic performance due to anaemia, it said the prevalence of anaemia is especially high among very young children. Ninety-two per cent of

children aged between six and 11 months are suffering from this problem. The prevalence of anaemia is also higher among the women and adolescent girls, it added. "The control of anaemia must be prioritised to achieve several of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, namely reducing hunger and maternal mortality and achieving universal primary education."



PHOTO: STAR
A corridor at Dhaka University looks deserted during a student strike yesterday. Bangladesh Chhatra League called the strike at all educational institutions across the country to protest the killing of one of its leaders.

Police action on women pickets protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mohila Parishad formed a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday protesting police battering on women picketers on the streets during hartal hours. They also demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of those responsible for the excess.

Women have the right to protest in the streets and this right should not be denied in the name of maintaining law and order, they said. They also demanded the government steps to make the police force more efficient in combating anti-criminal activities.

JCD cadres beat 4 BCL activists at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Four activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Jahangirnagar University (JU) were injured in separate attacks by the cadres of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) during yesterday's student strike. A group of JCD activists loyal to JU JCD President Parvez Mallik group and led by Kamrul, Likhon, Linkon, Tanjil, Imrul and Nur beat up BCL President Sohel Parvez on Dhaka-Aricha Highway at 1:30pm when he was waiting for bus there. General Secretary Mahmud Naser Jony and Organising Secretary Khan Mohammad Iqbal were also assaulted near university gate at around 1:30pm in presence of proctor, BCL activists complained. The injured were rushed to university medical centre while Sohel was admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital. "The JCD men beat me up in front of the proctor and the assistant proctor," said Jony. Foyzal, a student of 32nd batch of Mathematics department, was beaten up in another JCD attack in the morning near arts faculty. "Immediate action will be taken against the identified JCD activists who were involved in the attack," said Proctor Sayed Kamrul Ahsan,

admitting his presence during one of the incidents. Demanding probe into the incident, the BCL leaders threatened to enforce indefinite strike on the campus if action against the culprits is not taken in 24 hours. Academic activities at the university came to a near halt yesterday, as most of the classes were not held due to the strike.

Denmark to support road safety campaign

BSS, Dhaka

Danish Ambassador Niels Severin Munk will sign an agreement with BRAC for the road safety awareness campaign in Bangladesh on April 27, said a Danish embassy press release. The press release said Bangladesh has one of the highest accident fatality rates, which is 50 times higher than the western countries. Under the agreement, Denmark will provide grant worth Tk 1.05 crore to BRAC for a period of 13 months.



PHOTO: STAR
Freedom fighters stage a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday to press for their various demands, including an increase in allowance for them.