

Metropolitan

FM holds formal talks with British counterpart

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad briefed his British counterpart Robin Cook on the foreign policy initiative taken by the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to improve Bangladesh's relations with neighbours, particularly with India, reports BSS.

The two foreign ministers in their formal talks on Thursday in London reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

During the talks, the two sides underscored the need for exchanging high level visits and regular consultations between the two foreign offices.

Dwelling on the efforts to improve relations with neighbours, Azad referred to the signing of the historic 30-year treaty on sharing Ganges water between Bangladesh and India and developments on sub-regional cooperation involving growth quadrangle as well as new areas of cooperation under SAARC.

Britain welcomed the Ganges water treaty and sub-regional cooperation, the message said. Cook expressed the hope that these would provide further opportunities for the South Asian region.

Tk 1457 cr earned from fish exports in last fiscal

Bangladesh earned foreign currency amounting to Taka 1457 crore in the last fiscal year (1996-97) by exporting fish and fish products, reports BSS.

Disclosing this at a press briefing in the city yesterday to mark the Fisheries Week '97, the Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Satish Chandra Roy said that a total of 41,549 metric tons of fish and fish products, including 25,742 metric tons of shrimp, were exported in the last fiscal. The minister said the contribution of fisheries sector in the country's gross domestic production (GDP) is 4.8 per cent, while it is 8 per cent of the total export earning.

Satish Chandra, quoting an official statistics, said the total fish production in the last fiscal stood at 13.73 metric tons in 43.39 lakh hectare inland water and 1.66 lakh sq km sea water. This is 8.62 per cent higher than that of the corresponding fiscal 1995-96, he added.

Unveiling the future plan of increasing fish production, the state minister said that the government had fixed the target of fish production in the fifth five-year plan by 20 lakh metric

tons, which would increase the per head fish consumption up to 38.43 gm from the present 25.6 gm.

In this context, he said 31 projects involving Tk 73.21 crore have been included in the annual development programme (ADP) for the current fiscal for improving the fisheries sector.

A project, named 'Poverty alleviation through coordinated fisheries activities', has also been taken to provide jobs for the unemployed youths. Satish said adding some 7,000 beneficiaries have already been included under the project.

The state minister said proper and realistic steps would be taken to amend the fisheries law to meet the need of the hour as well as control the use of pesticides in food production.

Replying to a question, the minister said that the government was taking steps to improve quality of shrimps for export as suggested by the European Commission. "The government has already amended the Fish and Fish Product Article '95 as a follow up step," he added.

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GD-170



LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman distributing prizes among the best Union Parishad chairmen at the Local Government Engineering Department Auditorium in the city yesterday.

— PID photo

What's on today

Award distribution ceremony: An award distribution ceremony on the occasion of National Education Week '97 will be held. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall. Time: 4:30 pm. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Discussion: A discussion meeting on 'Law and order and checking smuggling' will be held. Organiser: Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI). Venue: FBCCI auditorium, 60 Motijheel. Time: 2:30 pm. Chief guest: Home Minister Rafiqul Islam.

Workshop: A national workshop on 'Government-NGO cooperation for poverty alleviation: Capability building to alleviate rural poverty under economic adjustments' will be held. Organisers: CIRDAP and ESCAP. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, 17 Topkhana Road. Time: 9 am - 5 pm.

Muktijuddha Jadughar: Shuosi Nara, Professor of Linguistics, Tokyo University, and president of Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Society in 1971, will reminisce about the War of Liberation. Venue: Jadughar auditorium, 5 Segun Bagicha. Time: 6 pm.

Bangla Academy: Prof Shuosi Nara will deliver a lecture on 'Bangladesh's War of Liberation and the Japanese People'. Venue: Academy seminar room. Time: 11 am.

Symposium: United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) has arranged a symposium in observance of the International Day of Peace. Keynote speaker: Prof Kabir Chowdhury. Chief guest: State Minister for Foreign Affairs A H Chowdhury. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 6 pm.

Zahir Raihan Film Society: Oscar-winning films — Through a glass darkly by Ingmar Bergman, and The discreet charm of the bourgeoisie by Luis Bunuel — will be screened. Venue: German Cultural Centre. Time: 5:30 pm and 7 pm respectively.

Rotary Club of Dhaka New City: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: FICCI, 35/1 Purana Paltan Lane. Time: 6 pm.

Rotary Club of Ramna: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5:50 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Shahbagh: The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Officers' Club, Baily Road. Time: 6 pm.

Call to make Fisheries Week a success

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said that the National Fisheries Week '97 will make special contribution in inspiring the people for fish cultivation side by side with increasing fish resources, fish preservation and expansion of fish technology, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of the Fisheries Week the President said the desired objectives could be attained through the spontaneous participation of the people with the government efforts in the development of fish resources.

In a separate message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged all concerned to actively campaign during the Fisheries Week for developing pisciculture, reports BSS.

The fisheries resources not only make up our nutritional requirement but also are a source of earning foreign exchange, Sheikh Hasina said. "We should be careful in exploiting and expanding the aquatic resources."

She lauded the NGOs and welfare organisations which along with the government are playing active role in increasing fish production and poverty alleviation in rural areas.

The Prime Minister wished the success of the week-long campaign.

Youngman stabbed
By Staff Correspondent

A group of youths stabbed a young man at Jurain under Demra thana in the city yesterday.

The wounded person was identified as Mukter Hossain, 24, son of Abu Jafar of Commission Road at Jurain.

Hospital sources said a group of about five unidentified youths intercepted Mukter's motorcycle on Commission Road and stabbed him indiscriminately at about 5 pm.

He was immediately taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

PM shocked at loss of lives in train mishap in India

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed her shock at the loss of lives in the disastrous train accident which took place Sunday in India, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina in a message to Indian Prime Minister I K Gujral said "I have been shocked to learn about the loss of lives as a result of the disastrous train accident."

Shah Moazzem Hossain (R) addressing a Jatiya Party (Z-M) rally in front of the National Press Club yesterday.

— Star photo

Communist Kendro team calls on Hasina

An eight-member delegation of 'Communist Kendro' led by its joint convenor Ajoy Roy called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed socio-political and economic condition of the country. They also discussed country's education and agricultural sectors.

The prime minister gave an overview of the development programme undertaken by her government.

The political leaders also expressed their views on different issues.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Awami League president members Amir Hossain Anu, Abdul Jalil and Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammed Nasim were present.

The other members of the delegation were Dr Wazedul Islam, Moulana Hossain Ali, Nurur Rahman Selim, Dr Ashit Baran Roy, Atiar Rahman, Abdul Wahab and Masudur Rahman.

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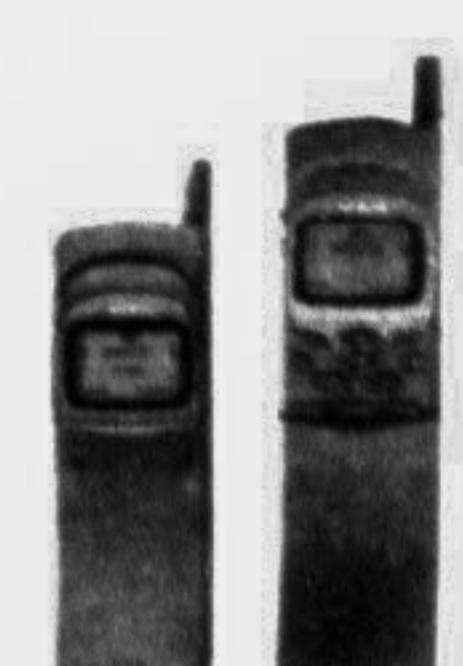
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