

CIRDAP meet ends with call to focus more on rural dev

BSS, Jakarta

A ministerial-level meeting of 13 countries of the Asia-Pacific region concluded here yesterday with a call to focus more and more on rural development and alleviation of poverty across the globe, particularly in the region.

The 14th meeting of the Governing Council (GC) of the Centre of Integrated Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP), was inaugurated by Indonesian president Megawati Soekarnoputri on Monday. The meeting called for greater interactions of the regional countries in the field of reduction of poverty, which is the key to development.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan led the Bangladesh delegation to the GC meeting.

In his statement, Mannan Bhuiyan outlined the government's policy and efforts to eradicate poverty at national level.

Indonesia's Minister for Home Affairs Hari Sabarna, who was the chairperson of the ministerial meeting, told the concluding session that the CIRDAP has to march ahead with its avowed objectives of poverty alleviation and rural development despite resource constraints caused by declining contributions by some donor agencies.

Director general of the Dhaka-based CIRDAP Dr Mya Maung said the inter-governmental organisation is playing a useful role in the region

and called for strengthening the regional institution.

The GC meeting decided that Dr Durga Prasad Paduval of Nepal will be the next director general of the CIRDAP for a four-year term as the tenure of Dr Maung ends in July next year.

Earlier, Bangladesh, Thailand and India held this position. The current DG of CIRDAP, which was set up in 1979, is from Myanmar.

Ensure best use of IT: Tariqul

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Tariqul Islam yesterday urged the field level information officers to ensure best use of Information Technology (IT) in making a communication bridge between government and people.

He was speaking as chief guest at a handing over ceremony of ten computers to the district information officers at the PIB (Press Institute of Bangladesh) seminar room organised by the Directorate of Mass Communication (DMC).

The meeting was also addressed by Information Secretary Nazmul Alam Siddiqi, Managing Director and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Amanullah Kabir and joint secretary of information ministry Mizanur Rahman Majumdar with Director General of DMC Iftekhar Hossain in the chair.



Dhaka condemns Mumbai blasts

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of innocent people in Mumbai bomb blasts on Monday.

"Bangladesh also strongly condemns this heinous act of terrorism and it has consistently spoken out against terrorism in all its form and manifestations", a Foreign Ministry press release said here yesterday.

Bangladesh also expressed its deep sympathy for the families of the victims, it added.

The bomb explosions killed at least 50 people and injured more than 100.

City University training programme

The training programme on "2003 overseas volunteer teams programme for Internet Education" ended on Saturday at City University, says a press release.

The programme was aimed to develop the students' computer operating proficiency with particular emphasis on Internet and Web Page.

A team of expert-students from Electronics and Information Engineering Division, Chonbuk National University, South Korea, imparted training to 50 students of the City University. It was sponsored by the Korean Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion (KADO) in collaboration with Ministry for Information and Communication.

Habibullah N Karim, President of Bangladesh Association for Software and Information Services (BASIS), said students must improve their computer literacy and should make use of their IT skill to accelerate the pace of economic development.

Prof Dr M Shamsul Haque, Vice-Chancellor of City University, apprised the meeting about multi-dimensional measures for promotion of education on Information Technology. Hossain Khaled, Vice-Chairman and Mirza A Matin, Registrar students and concerned officers were present in the closing ceremony.

Indonesian support for ARF membership sought

Bhuiyan calls on Megawati

BSS, Jakarta

Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan paid a courtesy call on Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri at the Merdeka Palace here on Monday.

Bhuiyan, who is here in connection with a regional meeting on rural development, conveyed to the Indonesian President the warm greetings of President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

He expressed Dhaka's deep satisfaction at the visit that President Megawati undertook to Bangladesh in June and said Bangladesh considered the visit as highly successful and productive.

Megawati recalled her visit to Bangladesh as highly satisfying and said she had extended an invitation to Khaleda to visit Indonesia and is hoping that the visit would take place sometime soon.

Bhuiyan discussed with her

different issues of bilateral and common interests, including trade, closer understanding on regional and international matters as well as bolstering the cooperation, particularly in the fields of culture and education, and rural development.

He sought Indonesian support for Dhaka's membership in the regional forum ARF, activating the joint economic commission (JEC) that was set up in principle earlier and a new cultural and educational agreement.

Megawati agreed to closer ties between the two countries and expressed satisfaction at the steady development of the Dhaka-Jakarta relationship.

She said the two countries can have more cooperation in new areas from which both will be benefited.

She said Indonesia will be hosting the 50th anniversary of the Asia-Africa conference in the

historic city of Bandung in 2005 and invited Bangladesh to participate in the highest level at the summit celebrations.

Bhuiyan was accompanied by Rural Development and Cooperatives Division Secretary Hidayetul Islam Chowdhury and Bangladesh Ambassador to Indonesia Nasim Firdous.

Another report says, Bhuiyan yesterday met Jusuf Kalla, Indonesian Minister for Coordinating Measures for People's Welfare and discussed with him different issues of common interest.

He also called on Aliarwan Hana, the State Minister for Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises. Bhuiyan told BSS that he had very useful talks with both the ministers pertaining to possibilities of cooperation between the two countries in various fields like cooperatives and areas of medium and small scale industries.

Death anniversary



The third death anniversary of Dr Nirafat Anam, former assistant professor of the Institute of Education and Research (IER) of Dhaka University, will be observed today, says a press release.

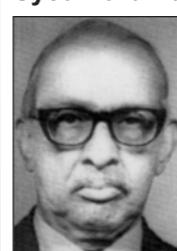
She dedicated her life for the welfare of the people with disabilities.

A meeting will be held at room no 219 of the IER at 11.30am to commemorate her death.

Akhmat Quran and milad mahfil will also be held at the residence of her brother at 8, Baitul Aman, Adabor (4th floor) in the city and also at her father's house at Shaheed Subhrawardi Road, Madhyapara, Gaibandha after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends, colleagues students and admirers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Syed Harun-ar Rashid



The third death anniversary of Syed Harun-ar Rashid, former chief of personnel, Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, will be observed today, says a press release.

Doa and milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 84/2 B, North Jatrabari, Bibir Bagicha, Qurankhawni and feeding of the destitute will also be held.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Habibullah N Karim, president of Bangladesh Association for Software and Information Services (BASIS), speaks at the closing ceremony of '2003 Overseas Volunteer Teams Programme for Internet Education' on the City University campus recently. Prof Dr M Shamsul Haque, vice-chancellor of City University, and Hossain Khaled, vice-chairman, attended the ceremony.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions till 6pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

Highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and Sylhet and the lowest 24.4 degree at Comilla.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:22pm today and rises at 5:38am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.4	27.7	75	64
Chittagong	33.5	26.4	76	73
Rajshahi	34.5	26.1	74	74
Khulna	34.5	26.5	87	74
Barisal	33.2	26.5	77	69
Sylhet	35.2	25.8	92	74
Cox's Bazar	34.0	25.5	77	82



Members of Zia Shishu Academy pose with the Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan at the Zia International Airport before their departure for Japan, Korea and Malaysia on Monday. Their visit is aimed at making the International Children Festival in Bangladesh a success.

DHAKA TODAY

Nazrul evening

On the occasion of the 27th death anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, the University Campus organises an evening of Nazrul song to be rendered by Subarna Kazi. Venue: Kendro Kachi-Kancha auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 4.00pm.

DU programme

Dhaka University (DU) organises a discussion as part of its programme to observe the 27th death anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Venue: Mazar premises at DU. Time: 7.30am.

Concluding function

The concluding function of the week-long programme taken up by the Nazrul Institute on the occasion of the death anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam, will be held with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Kabi Bhaban, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm.

Seminar

A seminar on 'Modernity, secularism and Islam: a discourse on mutuality and compatibility', organised by the Centre for Higher Studies of Dhaka University, will be held. Venue: Seminar hall of the centre. Time: 4.00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Zulu'. Venue: 21/C, Zigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

IUBAT roundtable

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