

Two DU teachers receive death threats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Muntasir Mamun and Prof Sharifullah Bhuiyan of history department, Dhaka University, received death threats from an anonymous caller yesterday.

The unknown person made a phone call to the room of the department chairman at 11:45am and threatened to kill the teachers if they take part in the election to the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), scheduled for December 21, says a press release.

Prof Sharifullah Bhuiyan and Prof Muntasir Mamun are contesting the DUTA election as candidates of the opposition-backed Blue and Pink joint panel for the posts of president and executive member.

In separate statements, the DUTA and the Pink panel expressed grave concern over the death threats.

They also demanded immediate steps to ensure security of the teachers.

A general diary has been filed with the Ramna Police Station in this connection, police said.

Dhaka made chair of LDC group again

BSS, Montreal

Bangladesh has been re-elected as the Chair of the 48-member least developed countries (LDC) negotiations group in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at its just concluded 11th session of the parties here.

Current LDC Chair Mohammed Reazuddin of Bangladesh will represent the country at climate change negotiation on behalf of the LDC group for another term of a year.

Dr M Asaduzzaman of Bangladesh who was a member of UNFCCC expert group was elected as its chair for a two-year term and Dr Ainun Nishat was elected as an alternate member of the high-powered compliance facilitation committee for the same duration.

Bangladesh was also elected member of the LDC Expert Group for a term of one year.

Bangladesh is the only country that won four seats of the UNFCCC that reflects the high quality performance of the 14-member strong delegation at the 11th session of the conference serving as the 1st meeting of the parties of the Kyoto Protocol.

Re-elected LDC Chair Reazuddin underscored the need for immediate support towards National Adaptation Programmes of Action prepared by the LDC parties to face climate changes.

Ambassador Rafiq Ahmed Khan, who led the 14-member Bangladesh delegation, said a demonstration of political will needs to be reflected by all Annex I Parties joining this important agreement.

"We would like to see that we all agree for a compliance regime. In this context, we LDCs are in favour of formal adoption of Marrakech Accord through a COP/MOP decision and then to start the process of amendment of the Protocol if necessary. We also feel that there is a need to have a two-track approach for proactive engagement of all the parties in reducing emissions," he added.

LDCs are putting on great efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the LDC spokesman said.

For LDCs, adverse impact of climate change is an added burden that destabilises our efforts toward economic and social progress.

"We need to recognise that adaptation to climate change is vast and costly, especially for the poor nations. Any delay in mitigation efforts will increase the risks of the adverse impacts," Rafiq pointed out.

LDCs have been working hard through the UNFCCC system despite their limited capacities and almost all of the LDCs are now preparing the National Adaptation Programmes of Action, he said.

Bangladesh delegation member Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, who has been representing the LDCs at the high-level roundtables chaired by COP President Minister Dion, also articulated the urgency and immediacy required to be reflected in the decisions of the parties at this historic COP/MOP.

Tk 53 lakh Japanese grant for Brac health project

Brac received a grant of \$ 83,068 (approx. Tk 53 lakh) from Japan for the Community Based Rural Health Care Programme in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), says a press release.

Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, Matsushiro Horiguchi, yesterday signed the contract with Faruque Ahmed, director of Brac Health Programme.

By utilising the Japanese grant, the existing Brac Health Programme is expected to be strengthened and cover the entire CHT region and thus 13 lakh people of the region will be benefited.

Ten new health centres will be constructed and 12 laboratories including one central laboratory will set up at those health centres under the project.

AHSANIA MISSION COLLEGE HC stops construction of high-rise building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special bench of the High Court (HC) on Monday directed to stop construction of a high-rise building of Ahsania Mission College at Dhanmondi in the city.

The special bench comprising Justice Abdul Matin and Rezaul Haque issued the rule nisi on the basis of a petition filed by Dhanmondi Paribesh Unnayan Jote and Dhanmondi Bari Malik Kalyan Samity to stop the establishment of a commercial institution in residential area.

The HC also issued a show cause notice to secretaries to public works, environment and education ministries and Rajuk chairman asking them to reply within three

weeks as to why the construction work would not be stopped permanently.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission is constructing a building at Plot No-20 on Road No-32 (Old) despite objection from the residents, says a jote press release.

British HC closed tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

British High Commission in Dhaka and its office in Sylhet will remain closed to the public tomorrow for Victory day, says a British High Commission press release.