

# Enhance economic ties

## President urges Iranian envoy

BSS, Dhaka

The new Iranian ambassador to Bangladesh Hassan Farazandeh presented his credentials to President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Welcoming the new ambassador, the President congratulated him on his new and first ever assignment to Bangladesh.

He said Bangladesh attaches great importance to its relations with Iran and looks forward to further strengthening bilateral cooperation for common benefits. He expressed satisfaction at the existing excellent relations between the two countries.

Iajuddin emphasised enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries and said there are great scopes for widening trade and commerce.

He told the envoy that the Iranian investors may invest in

Bangladesh in the fields of ICT, light engineering, textiles, agro-processing, automobile, gas-based industries, rubber processing and energy. He said a congenial atmosphere for investment is prevailing in the country and so both countries should explore all avenues of cooperation for mutual benefit.

He said Bangladesh has achieved a significant progress in the sectors of micro-credit, women empowerment, education, especially female literacy, and rural infrastructure.

Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world and it has huge capable human resources, he said and suggested that Iran can import human resources, including doctors, engineers and teachers, from here.

Iajuddin said Bangladesh and

Iran have cultural and religious ties for centuries. Bangladesh is keen to enhance cooperation in the field of education, he said and underscored the need for inter-university linkage between the two countries.

He assured the envoy of all support and cooperation in the discharge of his responsibilities.

Ambassador Farazandeh said relations between Iran and Bangladesh are excellent and it would be further strengthened in the days to come.

Military secretary to the President Major General Mohd Aminul Karim, Secretary to the President Md Sirajul Islam, foreign secretary in-charge Md Touhid Hossain and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Iranian Embassy in Dhaka were present on the occasion.

## Int'l Congress on Bengal Art begins in Bogra today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The 7th International Congress on Bengal Art begins today at the auditorium of Hotel Naz Garden in Bogra.

International Centre for Study of Bengal Art (ICSBA) and Pundra Academy, Bogra are jointly organising the event.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, is likely to inaugurate the congress as the chief guest.

Prof Ashraf Siddique will also be present as special guest in the inaugural ceremony while Dr Pratapaditya Pal, former senior curator of Los Angeles County Museum, will deliver a speech on the subject matter in the ceremony.

Sources said at least 67 prominent intellectuals, teachers and archeologists from 17 countries, including Japan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Korea, will participate in the congress and exchange views on different genres of archeology.

## Criminal flees from custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

An alleged criminal fled from police custody in the district town yesterday.

Eyewitnesses said a police team led by Sub-Inspector (SI) Debendranath arrested Kalam and Jalil from Satmatha area when they were engaged in gambling beside the rail line.

They are also accused in different cases.

Jalil fled when the police were taking breakfast at a restaurant at about 11:00am.

SI Debendranath and OC Zahid of Kotwali Police Station admitted the fact.

Meanwhile, police arrested 56 alleged criminal from different parts of the district in last 24 hours.

A special police team named 'Eagle' launched massive drives and arrested the alleged criminals.

Police Superintendent Asif Aziz said the arrestees were wanted in different cases.

## Dismissal of JU teacher demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several women rights organisations yesterday demanded dismissal of the teacher of Jahangirnagar University (JU) accused of sexual harassment.

Samajik Protirodh Committee in a statement expressed solidarity with the students and urged the university authorities to take immediate steps.

In a separate statement Karmojibi Nari asked for exemplary punishment to the responsible teacher.

## Appeal for help



of his kidneys have been damaged, says a press release.

Motiu, a former leader of East Pakistan Chhatra Union and the founding editor of Tarokalok, needs huge amount of money for kidney dialysis, transplant and medicine.

All NGOs, social workers, friends, relatives and well-wishers have been requested to extend a helping hand to save the life of Motiur.

Assistance can be sent to Syeda Ananya Rahman, Savings Account No 4376, Pubali Bank, Foreign Currency Exchange Branch, Motijheel, Dhaka.

For further information, anyone may contact at mobile phone no 01712-046600 or email at syed\_motiur@yahoo.com.

## Death anniversary



Bureau Mohammad Akmal Hossain and Ambassador Maj Gen (Retd) Mohammad Anwar Hossain, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at her village home at Khoksha-Janipur in Kushtia after Zohr prayers today and a milad mahfil will be held at her elder son's house at House 126, Road 9, Dhanmondi R/A in the city after Asr prayers on February 16.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programmes.



A mobile court in co-operation with the joint forces recovers a number of sacks of spice mixed with wood particles from a spice mill at Jinjira in Keraniganj yesterday.

## Oxfam project to create awareness about disaster

BSS, Dhaka

Oxfam Bangladesh, in partnership with Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre and Friends in Village Development Bangladesh, is implementing the Community Based Disaster Risk Management Project in the country.

European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian AID under its Third Action Plan for South Asia will provide financial support to the project.

The project aims at increasing awareness and response capacities of local communities to potential and frequent natural disasters and reduce their impacts on the most vulnerable, said a press release yesterday.

The project is being implemented through two components by supporting communities living in flood-prone areas as well as in earthquake-prone wards of Dhaka and Sylhet City Corporations to reduce their vulnerability to disasters.

The project is pioneering earthquake preparedness activities at national and community level, the release added.

## Expat woman commits suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi expatriate woman in America allegedly committed suicide in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

The body of Jesmine Akhter, 25, was found hanging from the shower stand in her bathroom at around 2:00am.

Her husband Mahbubur Rahman recovered the body by breaking the door open.

The body was taken to a private hospital first and then to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) at 6:20am where the on-duty doctor declared her dead.

Rahman said they had very good relations and they went for shopping in the afternoon.

"I am bewildered by the incident," he added.

The relatives of Jesmine were also confused whether it was a suicidal incident or a murder.

Jesmine along with her husband and a daughter came from America one month ago to visit Bangladesh and had been staying at the in-law's house at Motijheel.

## Four DU hall house tutors assaulted by BCL cadres

DU CORRESPONDENT

A number of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists assaulted four house tutors of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University (DU) while they were conducting a drive against the outsiders to recover illegally occupied seats yesterday early hours.

Some ten BCL leaders and activists led by Hemanta Bepari and Sankar Talukdar misbehaved with the house tutors -- Soumitra Shekhar of Bangla Department, Miltan Dev of History Department, Prof Mihir Lal Shaha of Botany Department and Gobindtha Mandal of Law Department.

Soumitra Shekhar, also convener of the hall seat committee, alleged that some BCL men and outsiders led by Hemanta, who did not have valid studentship, behaved roughly with them and threatened to attack them when house tutors asked them to show identity cards and allotment documents.

They also reportedly grabbed fifteen rooms of the dormitory forcing the inmates out of the room.

Hall sources said Hemanta and other BCL activists loyal to him illegally grabbed room no 46, 53 (C), 109, 114, 151, 201, 222, 253, 282, 362 and 432.

Soumitra said that Hemanta has been continuing many criminal activities including beating students and employees, extorting from canteen owners and misbehaving with house tutors although hall authorities announced Hemanta as persona non grata in the May of 2006.

Hall authorities said house tutors would continue the drive against outsiders.

## 'Women dev not possible without implementation of Cedaw'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women development in true sense will not be possible unless the Convention on the Elimination of all sorts of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw) is fully implemented, speakers observed at a workshop yesterday.

Although Bangladesh signed the Convention in 1987 but did not ratify section 2- elimination of discrimination, which is considered the main part of the Cedaw, they said.

The two-day workshop on 'Gender in policies: National and global perspective' began yesterday at the seminar room of Development Studies of Dhaka University (DU), jointly organised by Women and Gender Studies Department, DU and Steps Towards Development.

Prof Nazmunnesa Mahatab inaugurated the workshop session while Ayesha Banu, chair, Women and Gender Studies Department, DU and Ranjan Karmakar, executive director of Steps Towards Development, also spoke.

While facilitating a session, Ayesha Khanom, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said women development is not possible without proper implementation of the policies taken at state level.



PHOTO: PID

Outgoing Naval Chief Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan made a farewell call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

## Outgoing naval chief meets president

UNB, Dhaka

The outgoing Naval Chief Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan made a farewell call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Welcoming the naval chief, the president praised him for his "outstanding contribution" during his career in Bangladesh Navy. The president wished him and his family good health and happiness.

The naval chief expressed his deep gratitude to Iajuddin for his continuous support and cooperation during his tenure as chief of the navy.

He underscored the need for modern ships in Bangladesh Navy and training for the naval officials.

President's Military Secretary Major General M Aminul Karim and Secretary M Sirajul Islam were present.

## TURYA MURDER 'Khora' Liton on 5-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Shahadat Hossain alias 'Khora' Liton, the prime accused in the Turya Ghosh Roni murder case, on a five-day remand for interrogation.

Metropolitan Magistrate Selina Akhter passed the order after Detective Branch (DB) of police produced him before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court at 3:30pm with a prayer for a seven-day remand.

In the forwarding report, the investigation officer (IO) mentioned that Liton masterminded the killing of Roni. The money and gold ornaments they took from the victim's family members as ransom are now in his possession.

Moreover, three other arrestees gave confessional statements to metropolitan magistrates on different dates saying that as per direction of Liton they kidnapped and killed the victim. So, he needs to be quizzed to find out the whereabouts of his accomplices and realise the money and ornaments, the IO added.

On the other hand, the defence lawyers submitted a petition seeking bail and cancellation of the remand prayer saying that their client was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him.

After hearing both the sides, the court rejected the bail petition and put him on a five-day remand.

Turya, 21, was kidnapped by a group of miscreants led by Liton for realising a huge amount of money from his family on October 29 last year and later the gang killed the victim, though the family paid them Tk 10 lakh and 10 tolas of gold ornaments as ransom.

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT JU Students postpone hunger strike until Feb 21

JU CORRESPONDENT

The agitating students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) under the banner of 'Jahangirnagar Against Harassment' (JAH) postponed the fast unto death programme at 8:30pm last night until February 21 following assurance of teachers, intellectuals and human rights organisations of meeting their demands by the period.

The teachers and human rights bodies met Vice Chancellor Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman several times in the last two days and came up with the proposal of allowing more time to the authorities to complete the necessary steps on the issue within February 21.

Prof Anu Mohammad, Hena Das and Sultana Kaimal were among those, who pledged to build further movement if the university authorities fail to realise the demands by the period.

Earlier, seven students fell sick yesterday on the third day of the fast unto death programme to press their three-point demand, including dismissal of the teacher suspended for sexual harassment.

Of the sick Sumit, a 33rd batch student of Bangla department, was admitted to Gonoshasthya hospital as his condition deteriorated while others were injected saline on the

premises of Shahid Minar, the venue of the programme.

The others who fell sick are Momy, Rumon, Sharmin, Arafat, Lipi and Ratan of different departments. Sixteen students of different departments of Jahangirnagar University are observing the programme.

Several intellectuals from the capital Dhaka visited the students on the hunger strike yesterday expressing solidarity with the cause while cultural organisations held programmes on Shahid Minar premises.

The other demands of the JAH are formulation of policy against sexual harassment and establishment of allegation cell.

Human rights organisations, including Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, Ain O Salish Kendra, Samajik Protirodh Committee, and central committee leaders of Bangladesh Pragotishil Chhatra Jote also expressed solidarity with the agitators assuring them of providing necessary assistance.

A first year female student of Bangla department filed allegation of sexual harassment against the teacher in November last year following which the teacher was suspended.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night until early morning, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 29.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khepupara and lowest 15.0 degree Celsius at Srirongal.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:49pm today and rises at 6:36am 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	25.9	17.4	92	69
Chittagong	27.6	19.5	72	68
Rajshahi	23.0	16.0	99	87
Khulna	28.0	17.5	90	80
Barisal	28.2	17.0	90	81
Sylhet	27.8	17.2	81	69
Cox's Bazar	28.6	20.0	65	77