

Dhaka, London to work together on climate change, counter-terrorism

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Britain have agreed to work at both bilateral and international levels to reduce adverse impacts of climate change and increase cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

At a meeting in London on Thursday, Foreign Affairs Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and British Secretary for Foreign and Commonwealth Office Margaret Beckett MP also reaffirmed their commitment to increase bilateral trade and investment.

"Britain and Bangladesh will continue to cooperate closely as friends, bilaterally as well as multilaterally, including at the UN and the Commonwealth," Beckett said.

The meeting was "extremely fruitful" and covered the entire gamut of Bangladesh-UK bilateral

relations, said a release from Bangladesh High Commission in London yesterday.

The British Foreign Secretary conveyed her government's appreciation to Bangladesh for its support to the thematic debate recently held at the UN Security Council on 'Energy, Security and Climate Change'.

She also expressed her firm resolve to work towards mitigation as well as adaptation measures to combat the adverse effects of climate change on Bangladesh.

"Britain also looks forward to working in close concert with Bangladesh on counter-terrorism measures both bilaterally and through global institutions," Beckett said.

The adviser briefed Beckett about the structural reforms undertaken by the caretaker government to create sustainable elec-

toral, political, anti-corruption and public administration institutions in Bangladesh in order to create a level-playing field for a credible election by December 2008.

He said: "Democratic spirit and pluralist ethos are deeply ingrained in Bangladesh's society, which also takes pride in a vibrant civil society, a fiercely free press, intellectual thought, leadership in micro-credit and a disciplined armed force contributing to global peace and stability."

Dr Iftekhar Chowdhury sought technical and other forms of support from the British government to facilitate the work of the Election Commission for the 2008 elections.

Beckett said her government was happy with the announcement of election timeline by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and looked forward to providing all out

support to Bangladesh's electoral process.

She also praised the caretaker government for its stringent anti-corruption drive, which she hoped would contribute to good governance.

Later, Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed made a keynote policy speech at the prestigious British diplomatic think-tank, the Royal Institute for International Affairs (Chatham House), on 'Challenges for Bangladesh in South Asia'.

The lecture was attended by high Commissioners, ambassadors and diplomats resident in London and Commonwealth Deputy Secretary General and senior officials from the FCO, DFID, international human rights and development agencies and other international think-tanks.



PHOTO: STAR

Prof Anisuzzaman presents a bouquet to eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain at a reception marking the latter's 70th birth anniversary at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, chairman of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, speaks at the prize giving ceremony 2007 of its book reading programme on the Municipal School premises in Chittagong yesterday.

Swedish envoy visits Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Brit F Hagstrom yesterday visited the Sundarbans.

She was accompanied by her husband Karl Hagstrom, Vice-president of International Forum for Theatre Research Christina Nigrana, Director of Rupantar Rafiqul Islam Khokon and its Chief Executive Swapan Guha.

Earlier, the envoy was welcomed at Mongla by UNO Syed Mehedi Hasan and Executive Director of Sundarban Academy Prof Anowarul Kadir.

Charmed by Sundarbans' beauty, the ambassador called on forest officials to take necessary steps to protect the resources of the world's largest mangrove forest.

Later, she visited Kainmari village under Mongla upazila of Bagerhat district.

She also attended a view-exchange meeting at a house in the village where leaders of different professional and women organisations were present.

A cultural function was held there in honour of the ambassador.

College principal arrested in Bhola

BSS, Bhola

Joint forces yesterday arrested Principal of Ilisha Islamia Model College Nizam Uddin in connection with forgery of certificate and misappropriation of funds.

Bhola Naval Forces contingent sources said they had detained Principal Nizam Uddin at 3:00pm for his alleged involvement in certificate forgery, taking bribe and misappropriating the college funds.

He is now being interrogated in custody, the sources said.

Two killed in lightning in Dinajpur

UNB, Dinajpur

Two men were killed in lightning at Tangbua village in Khanshima upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Narayan, 24, son of Kalidas of Tangbua village in same upazila, and his cousin Sukumar Das.

Witnesses said Narayan and Sukumar died on the spot when thunderbolt struck the thatched house of Narayan in the morning.

Later, police recovered the bodies and sent them to local hospital morgue for autopsy.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Save the Environment Movement and Coalition of Local NGOs will hold a seminar on 'What to do to protect Hatiheel'. Venue: Auditorium of Save the Environment Movement. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion
Pallidess Charitable Society will hold a discussion on 'Role of the youth in rural development'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar
Bangladesh Economic Association will hold a seminar on 'Budget and gender' and on 'Jute problem'. Venue: Planning and Development Academy. Time: 3:00pm.

Prize giving ceremony
Media Forum For Human Rights and Environmental Development organises a function to give away prizes for investigative journalism outside the capital. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion
Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) will hold a discussion on 'Government initiative in medical waste management'. Venue: Bapa Solar Room. Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable
Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) will hold a roundtable on Bangladesh labour laws. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 9:00am.

Roundtable
Inner Wheel Club of Metropolitan Dhaka and Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka will hold a seminar on 'The prevention of blindness'. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 4:30am.

Rotary Dhaka Central
The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Temperature may rise

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 22.5 degrees at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:22pm today and rises at 5:31am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	In Celsius		Morning	Evening
Dhaka	Max 34.9	Min 25.2	72	45
Chittagong	32.5	24.9	74	77
Rajshahi	36.3	24.8	81	50
Khulna	35.0	25.0	76	61
Barisal	34.5	24.3	76	69
Sylhet	31.7	22.5	86	66
Cox's Bazar	32.8	24.2	63	76

Police arrested four students of Barisal Polytechnic Institute yesterday noon in connection with abducting a student of Barisal City College and demanding ransom on Thursday evening and the victim was not rescued ending last evening.

The arrestees were Mizanur Rahman Munna, Shamim, Setu and Alamin, who all were friends of the abducted victim Shafikul Islam Rakib.

Khorshed Alam, officer-in-charge of Barisal Kotwali Police Station, acknowledging the fact that Rakib, an HSC student, was abducted from the Pareshe Sagar area near Polytechnic Institute of the city on Thursday evening.

The abductors demanded Tk 50 thousand as ransom from the guardians of the victim over mobile phone and tortured the victim.

Mamun, leader of the abductor gang, collected Tk 10 thousand from Abdul Hye, maternal uncle of the victim on Thursday night to stop physical torture on the victim. Hye assured the gang to pay Tk 40 thousand by Friday.

Later the criminals cut off contact as they became aware about police investigation and arrests of their associates and the victim was not rescued as of last evening.

Drug-peddler arrested after shootout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested a drug-peddler after a shootout with a group of drug-runners at Talaimari areas in the city yesterday.

Shahidul Islam Shahin, 35, of Talaimari Raninagar areas was held with bullet injuries on his two legs.

Rab members seized 50 bottles of smuggled Indian phenisidyl and a 25-inch machete from his possession.

A Rab press release said a Rab team of Rajshahi Railway colony camp challenged the group of drug-peddlers behind Ruet campus.

As Shahidul among the fleeing criminals tried to hit Rab members with a machete, Rab members fired six shots.

Later Shahidul was found with bullet injuries on his two legs. He was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Rab sources said Shahidul was among one of a few drug-peddlers of the city.

JU zoology deptt celebrates 20 yrs of its journey

The Zoology Department of Jahangirnagar University (JU) celebrated its 20 years of journey yesterday on the campus with festive mood, says a press release.

JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman formally inaugurated the daylong function as chief guest at the central auditorium of the university.

The vice-chancellor said biological science is the key point of development process in the changing world, expressing hope that, the Zoology department will join this development flow.

The function presided over by its Department Chairman Prof Md Mostafa Firoz, was also addressed by Prof Kazi Zaker Hussain, Prof Syed Humayun Kabir, and Prof Md Anwarul Islam, all from Dhaka University, as special guests.

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Earlier a colourful procession was brought out on the campus.

Joint forces nab 10 dacoits with looted goods at Mirkadim

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Joint forces yesterday recovered looted goods from a boat on Ichhamoti river at Mirkadim in the district and arrested 10 dacoits in this connection.

The dacoits said they came here on Thursday night after committing robbery at Taltola village under Sirajdikan upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, the joint forces arrested the dacoits while they were sleeping in the boat and handed them over to police, said SA Newazi, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

The recovered goods included cloths, electronic goods, mobile phone sets and clocks, he added.

The dacoits were identified as Ali Hossen, 38, Mahtab, 38, Abdul Aziz, 25, Zahir Hossein, 24, Chan Mia, 55, Abdur Rahim, 37, Sanowar Hossein, 38, Ismail Hossein, 40, Arif Baber, 40 and Zahirul Islam, 32.

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Acquire knowledge about country's history

President asks students

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed has called on the students to acquire knowledge about the country's history and tradition alongside their study so that they can grow up as worthy citizens.

The president said this while talking to the students of British Columbia School in the city who visited Bangabhaban yesterday.

The president's wife, Prof Anwara Begum, was present on the occasion.

President Iajuddin also asked the students to gain practical knowledge by visiting the country's historical sites.

Teachers of the British Columbia school were also present.

One killed in Netrakona road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A passenger was killed and 25 others were injured in a road accident in Netrakona yesterday.

The dead was identified as Achor Ali, 50, of village Deoli under Barhatta upazila.

The serious injured Abdur Rahman, 80, Fazlu Mia, 50, Rakhal Chandra, 30, Jobeda Biswas, 30, and Hajaera Khatun, 65, were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital.

Other injured were admitted to Netrakona Sadar Hospital and Barhatta Upazila Health Complex.