



Devotees wrap up in warm clothes on the Biswa Jitema ground at Tongi as inclement weather made them suffer a lot yesterday. The three-day Jitema begins today.

## PRSP has lapse to address women's advancement

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said there are gaps in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) of Bangladesh in terms of addressing women's advancement and rights issues.

The discussion was organised by the Gender and PRSP Group (GPG) to review women's advancement and rights issues in National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction (NSAPR), their implementation and monitoring at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

While presenting a paper, Kaniz N Siddique, GPG member and representative of finance ministry, recommended that women's advancement and rights thematic group should provide inputs into the reports of other 17 thematic groups.

Besides, it should ensure

women's participation at the grassroots level consultations of all the thematic groups, she said. "Women and children affairs



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Mahmuda Islam speaks at a discussion at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

ministry can play an important role in bringing effective collaboration between women's advancement and rights thematic group and other 17 thematic groups," Kaniz added.

She said the report of women's advancement and rights group should be published so that the ministry can take initiative in this regard.

The speakers said there is insufficient inclusion of gender disparity profile in NSAPR and women's contribution in the society was omitted.

They said gaps in the content also include limited analysis of the dimension of poverty among women, lack of emphasis on the implementation of Cedaw, weak recommendations in the area of improving political participation of women, and absence of an assessment of the effectiveness of

the current women's machinery.

The speakers also stressed the need for incorporating the issue of repression on women in Millennium Development Goal (MDG) and enacting uniform family code and succession act to protect women's right.

Ranjan Karmakar, team leader of GPG Project, delivered the welcome address while Dr Simin Mahmud, research director of BIDS, Dr Faustina Pereira, director of Human Rights and Legal Services of Brac, were present as panel discussants.

Motahar Hossain, chief of General Economic Division, Fritz Meijndert of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Dr Rajani Alexander of Canadian High Commission, were present as special guests.

## Dhaka, Delhi enjoy excellent ties Says President

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed said Bangladesh and India enjoy excellent bilateral relations and hoped that the existing friendly relations between two countries will be further strengthened in the days to come.

Iajuddin made the remark in a message to his Indian counterpart Pratibha Devisingh Patil on the occasion of India's Republic Day tomorrow.

In another message to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed said the bond of friendship, understanding and cooperation bind our two countries together.

"I am confident that relations between the two countries will continue to grow from strength to strength in the days ahead. We are committed to work towards that end," said Fakhruddin.

Both Iajuddin and Fakhruddin wished two Indian leaders good health and happiness and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of India.

BIRD FLU

## BDR on patrol to prevent entry of Indian poultry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on Wednesday started patrolling on the river routes of Khulna, Jessore and Satkhira to prevent Indian poultry from entering the country.

Besides, BDR men are spraying disinfectants in the vehicles coming from India as bird flu disease has broken out in epidemic form in some districts of West Bengal.

They are also monitoring the situation keeping them in touch with officials of Livestock Department of the districts concerned.

On the other hand, Khulna District Livestock Department has directed the upazila officials to visit poultry farms and send daily reports on their findings.

Khulna District Livestock Officer Dr. Obaidul Karim said they have yet to receive any report of bird flu case from any of 1650 poultry farms in the district. He said the officials concerned are on alert to take quick action against infection of bird flu in any of poultry farms. All the poultry farms in the district have been brought under bio-security measures, he added.

He stressed the need for holding workshops at upazila levels to create mass awareness on bird flu.

## BDR, BSF agree to resolve disputes thru' discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A meeting between the officials of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the Border Security Forces (BSF) of India was held at Beanibazar yesterday with both sides agreeing to resolve disputes through discussions and necessary actions.

They also took some decisions to avoid clashes over the disputed lands along the borders, which led to repeated untoward incidents between the border guards in the recent past.

Both sides also agreed to maintain status quo of the farmlands

along the border until the dispute ends through higher level decisions.

Other trans-border problems including illegal migration, border fencing, smuggling of explosives and firearms, killing of Bangladesh nationals by Indian border guards and armed civilians, harbouring of miscreants and other border crimes dominated the meet.

Sector Commander Colonel Khondker Obaidul Ahsan led the BDR team while the BSF team was headed by DIG MP Singh.



PHOTO: STAR

Prof Atiur Rahman speaks at a seminar on 'Trade liberalisation of service sectors in South Asia' at Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday. On his right is Ambassador Edwin Laurent of Commonwealth Secretariat. South Asian Network on Economic Modelling organised the seminar.

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