

DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 11, 2009

Sea border, trade to get priority

Hasan Mahmud on foreign policy

UNB, Ctg
The new government will take effective measures on emergency basis for determining maritime boundary with the neighbours and enhancing trade cooperation with eastern countries, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud said yesterday.

states of India and to China is under consideration of the government.
The government will take any decision in this regard after considering country's interest and sovereignty, the minister said in reply to a question on the issue of transit facilities through Chittagong seaport.

on Uifa operatives and Bangladeshi criminals arrested in India would be taken "on the basis of bilateral talks".
Hasan Mahmud made the observations on the important issues while talking to the journalists on his arrival at Shah Amanat International Airport.

BCL factions fight to occupy JCD rooms at Dhaka College

Five injured, 10 rooms ransacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists were injured and 10 rooms ransacked during a factional clash over occupation of JCD rooms last night.

Two groups -- one led by college unit President Sagir Ahmed and the other led by Secretary Arefin Tutul -- equipped with firearms clashed for four hours that began at 9.00pm, leaving five of both the groups injured.

At least 10 rooms were ransacked in North and South halls, campus sources said.
A tense situation was prevailing on the campus during the last few days as the leading BCL groups tried to occupy the vacant rooms of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) members who left the dormitories after the national election on December 29.

Sagir and Tutul groups held a meeting last night to settle the issue but at one stage of the meeting they locked in fresh clash failing to settle their issue.

Both the groups fired at least 25 bullets and exploded at least 10 bombs on the campus during the four-hour long clash, campus sources said.



Shipping Minister Dr Afsarul Amin speaks at a public meeting marking the homecoming day of Bangabandhu at Laldighi ground in Chittagong yesterday.

Unicef concerned as UNRWA forced to suspend work in Gaza

BSS, Dhaka

Unicef has expressed deep concern as United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) was forced to suspend its humanitarian operation in Gaza due to the ongoing violence.

"This can only deepen an already critical humanitarian situation and put children at even greater risk of death or permanent damage. The distribution of food, water, fuel and medicine should not be impeded," Executive Director of Unicef Ann M Veneman said in a statement received in Dhaka yesterday.

The physical and psychological damage that this conflict is inflicting on children on both sides must end, the statement said, adding that children are being killed and injured everyday as a result of the current military operation.

"This is unacceptable and every effort must be made by all concerned to ensure that children receive the protection that is their right and our collective duty," it said.

Unicef urged all parties to the conflict to take every measure to protect children, saying, "It is only with an end to the conflict that children's rights can be fully respected."

In the interim, safe spaces and unimpeded humanitarian access must be established in Gaza urgently to ensure that children have access to regular life-saving supplies and support, the statement said.

Koko's money

FROM PAGE 1

According to the US justice department forfeiture complaint, the majority of funds in Koko's account are traceable to bribes allegedly received in connection with a China Harbour project for building a new mooring container terminal in Chittagong port.

"This action shows the lengths to which the US law enforcement will go to recover the proceeds of foreign corruption including acts of bribery and money laundering," said Matthew Friedrich.

"Not only will the department, for example, prosecute companies and executives who violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, we will also use our forfeiture laws to recapture the illicit facilitating payments often used in such schemes."

Siemens Aktiengesellschaft (Siemens AG), a German corporation, and three of its subsidiaries pleaded guilty on December 15, 2008, to violations of and charges related to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

The company will pay \$800 million in criminal and civil fines after admitting it paid bribes to government officials in Argentina, Bangladesh, China, Iraq, Israel, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, Venezuela and Vietnam.

Siemens Bangladesh admitted that between May 2001 and August 2006, it caused corrupt payments of at least \$5,319,839 to be made through purported business consultants to various Bangladeshi officials in exchange for favourable treatment during the bidding process on a mobile telephone project.

According to the forfeiture complaint, the bribe payments from Siemens AG and China Harbour Engineering Company were made in US dollars, and the illicit funds flowed through financial institutions in the US, before they were deposited in the accounts in Singapore, subjecting them to the US jurisdiction.

Money laundering laws in the US cover financial transactions that flow through the country involving proceeds from foreign offences including bribery and extortion.

In August 2006, the US president announced a national strategy to internationalise efforts against kleptocracy to fight high level corruption around the world.

The strategy combines policy and law enforcement tools of several federal agencies, including the departments of justice, treasury, state, and homeland security.

The case is being prosecuted by Deputy Chief Linda Samuel and Trial Attorney Frederick Reynolds of the Criminal Division's Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section.



Bangladesh Chhatra Moltri burns an effigy of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting the Israeli air strikes on noncombatant Gazans.

Road crashes kill five

METRO DESK

Five people were killed and 17 others injured in separate road accidents in the city, in Magura, Pabna and Gopalganj yesterday.

Staff correspondent reports: Two people were killed and 10 others were injured in separate road accidents in Magura yesterday.

The dead were identified as Mohammad Masum, 20, of Posta in Lalbagh and Mohammad Helal, 18, helper of a human hauler.

Police said when Helal, a human hauler helper, was standing on the road near Gabtali bus stand at 9:30am, another speeding human hauler knock down Helal, leaving him dead on the spot.

In another accident, when Masum was going to Panthapath riding a rickshaw, a bus knocked his rickshaw from behind and crushed him under its wheel at Palashi intersection.

Locals said agitating people damaged a bus following the accident.

On information, police rushed to the spot and rescued the driver and brought the situation under control, police said.

Our correspondent from Magura reports: Two people were killed and 10 others were injured in separate road accidents in Magura yesterday.

The dead were identified as Saiful Islam of Doyarampur village and Shaymol, 35, of Hopghat village in Faridpur.

Police and witnesses said Saiful was killed near Garibridge on Maura-Faridpur highway when a Faridpur-bound bus hit his rickshaw.

In another accident, Shaymol was killed on the spot when a speeding truck knocked him down near Kachabazaar in Magura town while he was crossing the road.

Meanwhile, at least ten people were injured when a passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch losing its control at Ramnagar on Magura-Faridpur highway.

Our Pabna correspondent adds: One person was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Pabna highway yesterday.

The victim was identified as Md Abu Taher, son of Rajen Biswas of Danisaria village in Pabna.

Sources said the accident occurred when a speeding bus rammed a nosiman (local motorised vehicle) leaving the driver of the nosiman Taher dead on the spot.

UNB from Gopalganj

PM to attend cabinet divn office today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend her cabinet division office in Bangladesh Secretariat today for the first time after assuming prime ministerial duties for the second time.

She is scheduled to go to her office at the secretariat at 10:00am and expected to hold meetings with senior bureaucrats of her office there, sources in the cabinet division said.

DU Gha, Kha unit results published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of the 1st year admission tests of 'Gha' and 'Kha' units at Dhaka University for the academic session 2008-2009 were published yesterday.

The admission tests were held on November 28 and December 1 last year, says a press release.

Sources said considering the concerns of around 33,000 admission seekers and their guardians, the authorities published the results temporarily.

However, the students will have to wait for choosing the departments and the admission process until the final judgement of a writ petition from the High Court, the release added.

A total of 5,163 students -- 1,759 from science group, 2227 from humanities group and 1177 from commerce -- passed the written examinations.

The lists of those promoted have been pinned to the main gate of arts building. Students can also see their results on website.

The successful students will be called for interviews later through newspaper advertisements and general notices.

If any student wants to recheck his or her answer script, they will have to apply to the social science dean with a copy of the admit card and Tk 500 between January 15 and January 20.

Seven departments of the university last year decided not to allow admissions of madrasa students who did not study Bangla and English of 200 marks each in their higher secondary or equivalent courses that led them to file a writ petition.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Gazi Shahidul Islam Talukder, a freedom fighter, former municipality chairman and former acting president of Sirajganj district unit of Awami League, passed away due to heart attack at a hospital in Sirajganj town on Friday at the age of 71.

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter and host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried with state honour at Rahmatganj graveyard in the town.

Sirajganj district unit of Awami League, Mukti Joddha Sangsad, Sirajganj Press Club and many other organisations expressed shock at the death of Shahidul Islam.

Belayet Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Belayet Hossain, a freedom fighter and manager (film distribution) of Department of Films and Publications, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his residence in the city on Friday, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two daughters and a son to mourn his death.

Acting president of BCS Information Association and senior deputy chief information officer of Information Directorate MA Halim expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Kali Prova Mishra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kali Prova Mishra, mother of Jibon Kumar Mishra, deputy registrar of Dhaka University, passed away on January 6 at the age of 75, says a press release.

She left behind his three sons and two daughters to mourn his death.

'Health sector to be modernised'

UNB, Dhaka

Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haq yesterday said country's health sector would be modernised through making 'community clinics' effective and commoners' access to health service would be ensured at any cost.

"The government gives 'health management system' top priority so that poor get the medicare without any hassle," the health minister said while talking to journalists during his visit to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in the evening.

He said the government is sincere about providing health care to the poor. They will not be deprived of getting necessary service.

Replying to a question the minister said, "mismanagement might be seen in particular cases, but we will dig out how the mismanagement takes place and who are responsible for that."

"We must overcome mismanagement at any cost, no matter how difficult it is," Dr Ruhul said adding that when demand is high and supply is low, mismanagement appears

at that time. Describing the scenario of DMCH he said that approximately 500 hundred patients routinely visit the hospital and their healthcare must be ensured.

"You know people consider DMCH as heart of public healthcare services. They come here to get quality treatment, so their desires should be fulfilled," the minister told the physicians.

He visited different wards of DMCH, talked to patients and physicians.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

The 15th death anniversary of late justice A B M R A h m a n Chowdhury will be observed today, says a press release.

He was the VP of Salimullah Muslim Hall in 1948 and a language movement veteran.

Biplobi Debendra Nath

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Today is the 10th death anniversary of Biplobi Debendra Nath Ghosh. On the occasion, Biplobi Deben Ghosh Smriti Sangrakkhan Committee and Kheyali Group Theatre arrange a discussion on his life and achievement.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said in a forecast.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country, it said.

Highest temperature 30.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 9.3 degrees was recorded at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:30pm today and rises at 6:44am tomorrow.

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

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.