Russia keen to help in power sector

High-powered team to visit Bangladesh soon

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greets veteran AL leader Zillur Rahman, who is set to become the next

president, with a bouquet at the ALCWC meeting at the party's Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Rajshahi City Corporation

(RCC) Mayor AHM

Khairuzzaman Liton appreci-

ated some achievements of

former mayor Mizanur

Rahman Minu whereas Minu

assured cooperation in devel-

opment work of the mayor at a

programme on Monday eve-

They said these at a

ningin Rajshahi.

Rajshahi

Minu assures RCC

promotional programme.

the programme.

programme.

Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram

Parishad Convenor Zamat

Khan and Dr Mahbuba Kaniz

The programme will be

aired on BBC radio on FM 105

in Rajshahi on February 15

mayor of all help

UNB, Dhaka

(Story on Page 2)

phensidyl

UNB, Dhaka

arrested.

Six held with

Detective Branch of police recov-

ered 189 bottles of phensidyl and

arrested six people at Alaul

Acting on a tip-off, a team of

Avenue at Uttara in the city yester-

DB police raided a microbus in

front of BHBFC Ideal High School

and recovered 189 bottles of

Rahman, Abul Kashem, A

Rahman, Azgar Ali, Bablur

Rahman, and Runa -- were also

phensidyl from Putkhali in Jessore

and supply these to different areas

in city, said a DMP release.

The arrested used to collect

Six drug traders -- Mahbubur

Indian phensidyl at 12:40 pm.

Russia expressed its desire to extend cooperation to Bangladesh's power sector as a 10member high-powered delegation led by the Economic Development Secretary will be visiting Bangladesh soon.

Russian Ambassador in Bangladesh tion to the power sector. Gennady Trotsenko unveiled the plan during a meeting with Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni at the Foreign Ministry yesterday.

During the meeting, the envoy also expressed his country's willingness to expand Siddhirganj Power Plant to increase its production capacity, according to a foreign ministry source.

The high-powered delegation, comprising representatives of different institutions, including the Central Bank of Russia, will explore various ways for economic development.

The volume of trade between the two countries is now only 250 million US dollar and opportunity is there to expand the trading areas through signing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The foreign minister told the envoy that Bangladesh is willing to sign such a deal. She expressed satisfaction over Russian contribu-

"During the meeting, Dhaka-Moscow cooperation in power, agriculture, trade, economy, political and culture sectors was discussed in detail," said the source.

The Ambassador stressed that the existing bilateral agreements need to be renewed for further strengthening the bilateral ties. He said recently an MoU was signed between the Russian Diplomatic Academy and Bangladesh Foreign Service Academy, which will "facilitate exchange of experience and expertise between foreign service officers of the two countries".



NEWS

An election tribunal of the High Court (HC) yesterday accepted for hearing an election petition seeking cancellation of the result of December 29 parliamentary polls to Barisal-5 constituency and to hold a fresh election to this constituency.

After hearing the submission from the petitioner's counsel, the tribunal of Justice Shahidul Islam entertained the petition for holding hearing on the

Awami League candidate Zahid Faruk recently filed the petition stating that BNP candidate Mujibibur Rahman Sarwar who won in the election, has no right to contest the parliamentary polls since Sarwar was a mayor of Barisal City Corporation (BCC).

Petitioner's counsel Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder told The Daily Star that the hearing of the election petition will be held soon.

Focus Bangla steps into fifth year

yesterday.

The agency that started its and news' four years ago organised a daylong programme to

Shipping Minister Afsarul Amin inaugurated the programme in the morning by cutting a cake at its office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the

the updated news of the agency by dialling the number.

writings.

forward.

(SCC) Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran said the agency has already gained popularity among the people through its rare collection of photographs which were printed in many

Keya of Rajshahi University were among the panelists at structive criticism of the govdevelopment activities posi-Sabir Mustafa, head of BBC tively, he added. Bangla Service, moderated the

Nadim Kadir, also the founding chairman of the photo agency, Focus Bangla Managing Editor Yeasin Kabir Joy, Chairman Kamal Hossain and World University Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Mannan



Focus Bangla, a digital news and photo agency, stepped into five years of its service in the city

journey with the slogan of Every time with technology mark the day.

He also inaugurated voice

new service by dialling 2008. From now, anyone can listen to

Afsarul said journalists have immense responsibilities in making digital Bangladesh through their constructive

He called on all professionals to come forward in building a prosperous nation as it is not possible for the politicians alone to move the country

Sylhet City Corporation On her right is Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee. daily newspapers.

Journalists should do conernment apart from upholding

Chowdhury also spoke.



programme of BBC Bangla after news bulletin 'Prabaha'

Service titled 'your city, your and will be telecasted on

Visa seekers stage a protest in front of the Indian visa office at Gulshan in the city yesterday as they failed to submit their visa forms even after waiting in a queue for hours.

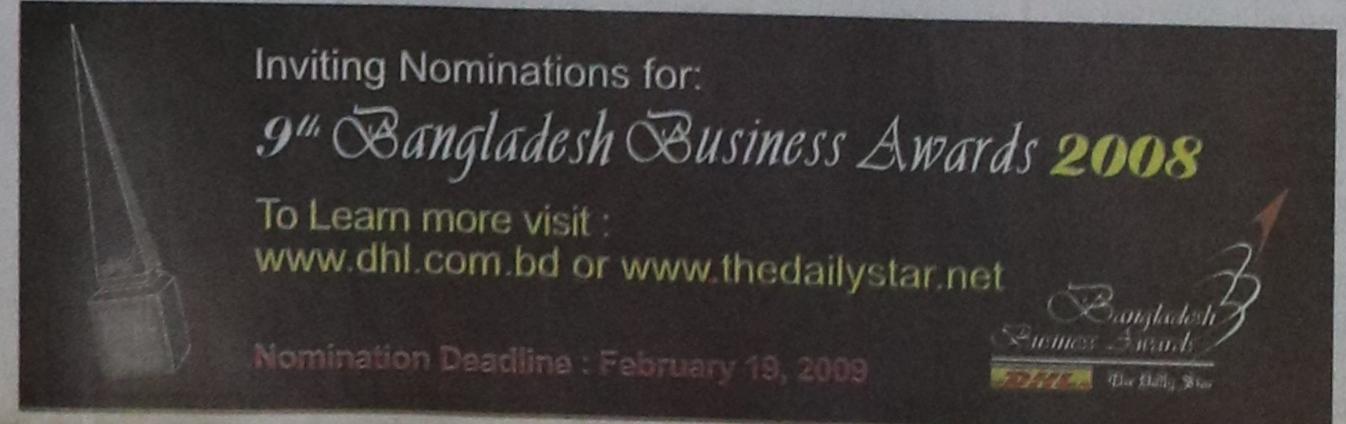




PHOTO: COURTESY

Participants of 7th South Asian Free Media Conference observe one minute's silence in memory of the journalists killed in this region at the inaugural session of the conference at Cox's Bazar yesterday.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Help develop skilled manpower

Minister urges World Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzak yesterday sought the World Bank (WB) assistance in developing skilled manpower for better disaster management and reduction in casualties.

The WB may help in setting up an institute to develop human resources, the minister told the WB Country Director Xian Zhu as he met the minister at his office.

In response to the minister, Xian Zhu said they provided US\$ 8 million after the Sidr and that money could be used for building such an institute. The bank also provided US\$ 5 crore to Bangladesh to face challenges of climate change. After the meeting Zhu told reporters it was

important to increase safety net programmes and check irregularities in such programmes to help more poor people when food prices are high.

Dr Razzak said the government already instructed the officials concerned to investigate into the irregularities in the safety net programmes.

None of those involved with irregularities in safety net programmes will be spared, he added.

On Monday, he said the government found huge misuse in 100-day Employment Generation Programme. Other safety net programmes include, Vulnerable Group Feeding, Vulnerable Group Development, and Food for Work.

The minister also said that it is important to increase the food stock of the government and therefore the World Bank can help in increasing food storage capacities.

Earlier, the trial court in Comilla acquitted them of

The HC bench comprising Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan also upheld the trial court verdict acquitting three others of this

KILLING OF WOMAN

HC jails three

acquitted by

lower court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Homna upazila in Comilla.

The High Court (HC) yesterday

sentenced three people to jail

for life for killing a woman at

The lifers are Abdur Rashid, Abdul Matin and Kalaisa and the acquitted are Abdul Malek, Idris Miah and Joinal Abedin.

After a long hearing on the long pending appeal against the trial court verdict, the HC yesterday delivered the judgment.

Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan, a lawyer for the accused, told The Daily Star that he will file an appeal on behalf of his clients with the Supreme Court against the High Court verdict. Khurshid said the miscre-

ants killed Ruptunnesa, a woman of Homna upazila in Comilla district on September 24 in 1986. The same dayher son Shamsuzzaman filed a murder case with Homna police station in this regard. Then additional Sessions

Hossain delivered the verdict acquitting all the six accused of the case on March 19, 1989. The government then filed

Judge of the district Md Sohrab

an appeal with the High Court against the trial court verdict. Hearing of the appeal started

at the High Court last week.

Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Shamsur Rahman appeared for the government.

TRAINING ON ETHNIC COMMUNITIES 'Promote human rights'

METRO DESK

Objective journalism can help reducing marginalisation of the ethnic communities and it could be a way of promoting their human rights.

Participants observed this at a five-day training for jour- Anthropology of Dhaka nalists on human rights of the University and Prashanto ethnic communities that Tripura, national coordinator concluded at Savar on of Local Governance Monday, says a press release.

Resources Development resourcepersons. Initiative (MRDI) with support from Delegation of the focused on human right issues European Commission in Bangladesh organised the training for the journalists of writing skills, quality of the national print and electronic media.

leading national print and ethnic communities in the electronic media participated reports. at the programme.

chairman of Department of the concluding session Law, Chittagong University, announced that fellowship

Lecture on medical physics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Salahuddin Ahmad, director of Medical Physics and Dosimetry, Department of Radiation Oncology, Oklahoma University, USA, delivered a lecture on 'Scope and prospective of medical physics' at Gono Bishwabidyalay on Saturday, says a press release.

He outlined the academic programme on medical physics and oncology in USA at his lecture.

Gono Bishwabidyalay Vice Chancellor Prof Mesbahuddin Ahmad, Prof Ajoy Roy, head of the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, trustee of the university, were present at the programme.

Mentionable, only Gono Bishwabidyalay offers the course on medical physics and biomedical engineering in the country.

senior staff lawyer of the BELA, Prof Dr Amena Mohsin of international relations of Dhaka University, Prof Dr Sadeka Halim of Department of Sociology of Dhaka University, Prof H K S Arefeen of Department of Programme, Care Bangladesh, Management and conducted the sessions as

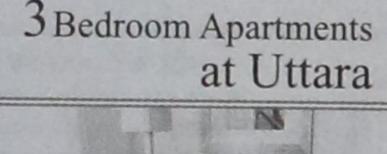
Foreign Minister Dipu Moni speaks at a joint press conference at Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka on Monday.

The training programme emphasising ethnic rights, techniques of investigation, reporting and proper reflection of the culture, livelihood, A total of 22 reporters from hopes and aspirations of the

Hasibur Rahman, execu-Dr Abdullah Al Faruque, tive director of the MRDI, at Advocate Bahreen Khan, would be awarded to 10 journalists for in-depth investigative reports on human rights of ethnic communities.



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