



Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus presents the visiting Russian Deputy Minister for Economic Development Anna Popova with a product of Grameen Check at Grameen Bank Bhaban in the city yesterday.

GLOBAL FINANCIAL MELTDOWN

Russia to intensify microcredit to offset adverse effects

Says Russian minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Russia wants to intensify its microcredit programme to cushion the adverse effects of global financial meltdown, said the visiting Russian Deputy Minister for Economic Development Anna Popova at a press conference at Grameen Bank Bhaban in the city yesterday.

The global financial crisis has affected many small businesses in Russia while the conventional banks are not willing to finance them for risk involvement in such financing," she added at the press conference attended by Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, managing director of Grameen Bank.

Popova said under such situation, microfinance will help those affected by the economic recession and people also want to develop new enterprises in the new circumstances.

Popova arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday on a four-day visit to learn about operations and legal structure of Grameen Bank and to replicate the structure in Russia.

She was leading a 10-member high profile delegation which is due to leave Bangladesh today.



Children of The Daily Star staffs sing at a get-together of the family members of the staffs at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

Indian among 19 held while crossing border illegally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday arrested 19 people, including an Indian national, from Nabatkhali, a bordering village in Sadar upazila, while they were crossing the border illegally.

The Indian national is identified as Rezvan Sheikh, son of Anwar Hossain of Shira Road in East Mumbai, India. The others are Maulana Abul Kalam of Niyamatpur in Noakhali, Ripon Sheikh of Abhoynagar in Jessor, Bidhan Gharami of Chitalmari in Bagerhat, Kamrul Islam of Bhandariachar in Narail, Farid Mia of Khejuri Beel in Cox's Bazar, Nabi Hossain of Amtala in Bandarban, Bijon Kumar of Dakop in Khulna, Makhan Chandra of Dhulia in Patuakhali, Beauty Mistri of Jhalokati.



Temperature may rise

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over the river basins during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.9 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakunda and the lowest of 11.2 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:57pm today and rises at 6:26am tomorrow.

The 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	29.9	15.3	43	31
Chittagong	30.7	16.5	65	49
Rajshahi	29.8	12.2	79	44
Khulna	30.5	14.8	72	51
Barisal	30.5	14.0	80	58
Sylhet	31.8	14.8	72	47
Cox's Bazar	32.8	16.5	63	51

Minister Hasan misquoted by CNN-IBN Says foreign ministry

UNB, Dhaka

The remarks of State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud on exchange of terrorists between Bangladesh and her neighbouring countries were not reported correctly by local and international media, said a foreign ministry official yesterday.

The official further said Mahmud's comment on alleged links between Bangladesh and the recent terrorist incidents in the region was also not reported properly.

Indian TV channel CNN-IBN reported that during an interview with the channel Hasan said Bangladesh has agreed to hand over Ulfa leader Anup Chetia to India and also admitted Huji-B's secret camps in Bangladesh. The CNN-IBN broadcasted the interview last Wednesday and some Bangladeshi media reproduced the report quoting a local on-line news service.

Syed Muntasir Mamun, assistant secretary to Dr Hasan Mahmud, said he talked to the state minister at Nairobi last night regarding the misquotes in some of the media reports.

A clarification issued by Muntasir said regarding the exchange of terrorists, discussions are underway to institute a regional facilitating mechanism for exchange of convicted criminals in the South Asian region.

It said, "No specific individual or elements stands prominent in these discussions. Therefore, the report of decisions and so-called promises made with regard to handing over specific individuals is not only misrepresentation of what was actually said (in any interview) by the State Minister Hasan Mahmud MP, but was also factually incorrect."

The clarification said indeed multi-party consultations have long been going on as to how to facilitate apprehension and transfer of criminals -- convicted in one country -- but crossing and fleeing borders and hiding in other neighbouring countries.

Regarding Huji, it said Bangladesh has been taking strong and specific deterrence measures for a very long time. Huji activities are not only banned in Bangladesh but also all possibilities of its underground activities are actively monitored showing a zero tolerance.

The clarification noted that Bangladesh is committed to take action against any terrorist and terrorist organisation found active in this part of the world.

It said the Bangladesh government is sponsoring initiatives for instituting a regional cooperation and coordination mechanism to prevent linkages and cooperation amongst the terrorist elements in the South Asian region.

"Bangladesh rejects all allegations that terrorists are carrying out attacks in the region from Bangladesh. Such misreporting is not only factually incorrect but also unfortunate and disheartening," it said.

Obituary

UNB, Dhaka

Sayed Hosna Banu, wife of late Khandaker Nazmul Hossain (Hiru Miah), died of old-age complications at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday at the age of 81.

She left behind two sons, one daughter and son-in-law, and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

Hosna Banu was the aunt of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain. Her husband Hiru Miah was a cousin of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed condolence at the death of Hosna Banu.

Qulhwani

METRO DESK

Qulhwani of Engineer Syed AFM Yahya, ex-director of the then Lever Brothers Ltd., will be held today after Asr prayers at his residence at 'Kazi Bari', 1/5 Shahjahan Road, Mohammadpur, says a press release.

He passed away on February 19 at the age of 73 due to a cardiac arrest.

He left behind his wife, three sons, a daughter and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

ADB to help implement development priorities

UNB, Dhaka

Frederick Roche, deputy director general of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) South Asia Department, has reiterated ADB's strong sup-

port and cooperation in helping the new government implement its development priorities.

He reiterated this in meetings with the ministers and senior officials during his four-day visit to Bangladesh that concluded on Thursday.

During the visit, Frederick Roche discussed with finance, agriculture and education ministers and senior officials a wide range of policy and implementation issues and the government's vision for development. He also met the development partners, said a press release.

"We had productive discussions in key operational areas, including power and energy, education, water resources, transport and agriculture."

Frederick Roche said.

"We are firmly committed to assist the government in scaling up the pace of infrastructure development, promote regional cooperation, and continue governance and economic reforms," he added.

The official also indicated that ADB stands ready to support Bangladesh in overcoming any adverse effects that might result from the global economic slowdown.

ADB's South Asia region

comprises Bangladesh,

Bhutan, India, the Maldives,

Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in the Asia and Pacific region through pro-poor sustainable economic growth, social development and good governance.

Photo show on language movement begins at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A photographic exhibition on state language movement began on the Dhaka University campus yesterday to commemorate the supreme sacrifices of the brave sons of the soil in 1952.

Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the two-day event jointly organised by Language Movement Museum and Nymphe Publicat at Battala near the Aparajeyo Bangla on the campus.

A total of 40 digital photographs have been put on display at the exhibition.

Speaking as the chief guest at the programme, the VC said mother tongue is so precious than any other foreign languages practised in a country in the world. It is the root of the nation's culture and heritage.

Bangalees made a world history who fought for establishing Bangla as their mother tongue as well as the state language. The movement generated a different spirit in the dignity of each language in the world, he added.

Prof Arefin said, "All the mother tongues should be respected like Bangalees who sacrificed their lives for language, making a history of pride which led to the independence of the country in 1971."

He lauded the initiative of such exhibition that represents the accurate history of the state language movement to the new generation.

He said Dhaka University is all set to observe the 21st February in a befitting manner.

Md Takiullah, Prof Rafiqul Islam and Amanul Haq, renowned photographers of language movement would be honoured at the closing ceremony tomorrow, said Karunangshu Barua, publisher of Nymphe.

Language movement veteran Shamsul Haq, Rezaul Karim, barrister Jamir, Mili Rahman, sculptor Rasa, Mai Barni and Tarek Ziaur Rahman were also present.



PHOTO: STAR
Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) organises a sponsored walk at the Gulshan Lake Park in the city yesterday. CRP founder Valerie Taylor was present on the occasion.

রাষ্ট্রীয়ভাষা আন্দোলন
কর্তৃপক্ষে রাঞ্জালী
তেজ ঢাকার শহর
রুজে ভাসাইলো...

বাংলা ভাষার মহান দিবসে একশের প্রথম গানের* রচয়িতা
চারপক্ষে শামসুদ্দিন এবং সকল ভাষা সৈনিকদের জানাই আশাদের বিন্দু শুকা।



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