

Dhaka to further strengthen ties with Asean countries: FM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni yesterday said Bangladesh would further strengthen its ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) countries.

Ambassador of Myanmar U Phae Thann Oo, Ambassador of Thailand Chalermphol Thanchitt, Ambassador of Philippines Zenaida Tacorada-Rabago, Ambassador of Brunei Haji Abdul Rajzak bin Haji Mohd Hussaini, Singapore Consul General Tan Kok Nam, Indonesian Charge d' Affaires Tri Surya and acting High Commissioner of Malaysia Hamizan bin Hashim were present.

"Our relation with the South-East Asian countries dates long back. Common culture and values and similar aspirations of the peoples have strengthened the relation further. We are determined to take the relation to a new level."

mentioned of the Mekong-Ganges Cooperation Initiative. "As a down riparian country of the Ganges, Bangladesh has the right to participate in this initiative. We will also have to work together to survive the prevailing world economic crisis," she said.

City's diarrhoea situation deteriorates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The city's diarrhoea situation has slightly deteriorated in the last three days, Prof Shahadat Hossain, scientist and head of longer stay unit of International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), said yesterday.

BDR-BSF confce cut short by 3 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The six-day director general (DG) level conference between the border guards of Bangladesh and India, which was scheduled to start in New Delhi on March 27, has been cut short by three days due to the last month's carnage at BDR headquarters.

Int'l dialogue on migration begins in Geneva today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day international dialogue on migration begins at the International Conference Centre in Geneva (CICG), Switzerland today focusing on practical protection of human rights of the migrants.

HC grants bail to 199 RU Shibir activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted anticipatory bail for two months to 199 activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir of Rajshahi University unit in five separate cases filed against them for assaulting Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men on the campus.

Rajshahi edn institutions to reopen in a week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Top officials of all closed higher educational institutions in Rajshahi last night at a meeting decided to reopen almost all their institutions within a week enforcing a three-month ban on student politics.

Schoolgirl hacked to death by madrasa teacher

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A schoolgirl was hacked to death by a madrasa teacher in Munshiganj yesterday. The victim was identified as Maimuna Huq Rinki, 13, a student of class six of Rans Ruhitpur High School and daughter of Enamul Huq of Rans village at Munshiganj municipality.

Fugitive convict held at Fatulla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police arrested a fugitive convict at Fatulla in Narayanganj on Monday night. The arrestee was identified as Awami League (AL) activist Tanim, 28, who was sentenced to 31 years imprisonment in an arm case.



Students of Bangladesh International Tutorial (BIT) display some scientific projects at a two-day annual science fair of the school on its premises in the city recently.

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Table with weather forecast: Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar. Columns: Max, Min, Morning, Evening.

Pichchi Masum held in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a criminal, Sarder Pichchi Masum, and recovered five rounds of bullets and explosives from him after he stabbed a youth at Pathantuli in Narayanganj on Monday night.



European Union Election Observation Mission chief Alexander Graf Lambsdorff calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Prioritise activities to address overpopulation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a report launching ceremony urged both government and non-government officials to work out ways to ensure better programme implementation. They also called on them to identify priority activities to address issues of overpopulation and primary healthcare.

The Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) report 2007 was launched at a city hotel. The report said early child marriage and early child bearing are still major obstacles to fertility decline in the country.

Women on an average in the country have 2.7 children, while required target of total fertility rate (TFR) is 2.2. TFR is highest in Sylhet division (3.7) and lowest in Khulna (2.0), added the report.

Dhaka-Delhi

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"It has been mentioned in the election manifesto of Awami League and the government will implement the project (deep seaport) if it does not face any hindrance in its implementation," he told reporters after holding a meeting with the Indian delegation, reports UNB.

Art exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a solo exhibition titled 'Onyoprogmat Obbyob' by artist Kirti Ranjan Biswas will be held. Venue: Contemporary Art Gallery, Shilpaganj. Time: 6:00pm.

Digital Expo

Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS) organises BCS Digital Expo beginning today. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 3:00pm.

Workshop

CARE Bangladesh organises a workshop on 'National harm reduction strategy for injecting drug use and HIV, progress, opportunity and challenges'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 10:00am.

Memorial meeting

Dhaka University Alumni Association will organise a memorial meeting and hold a candlelight vigil in memory of the army officers killed during the BDR carnage. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 5:30pm.

Discussion

Liberation War Museum will hold a discussion on the necessity of researches on mass killing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Venue: Museum premises. Time: 5:00pm.

Bangla Optica

Bangladesh Optical Industries and Traders Association organises Bangla Optica 2009 beginning today. Venue: Hotel Raj Moni Isha Kha. Time: 12:00pm.

Workshop

Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation organises a workshop on 'Chemical hazards and management problems and challenges in Bangladesh'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

Street art

The Fine Art department of University of Development Alternative (UODA) organises a street art programme and other cultural programmes to mark the black night of March 25. Venue: Manik Mia Avenue. Time: 6:11pm.

Discussion

Darul Ihsan University will hold a discussion to mark the Independence Day. Venue: South campus of the university, Motijheel. Time: 10:00am.

Documentary screening

Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB) organises the screening of 'Bangladesh Tourism'. Venue: ATAB conference hall. Time: 12:00noon.

Report launch

The European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) will launch its final report on the 9th parliamentary elections. Venue: Hotel Lake Shore, Gulshan-2. Time: 4:30pm.

Khulna bus owners enforce strike from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Divisional Bus-Minibus Owners' Association has called a strike on 14 routes of the country for an indefinite period from today to press home its five-point demand.

2 accused flee Jatrabari police station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two accused in a snatching case escaped from Jatrabari police station breaking open the ventilator of a toilet yesterday morning. Police, however, could arrest one of them four hours after their escape at Pagla in Fatulla of Narayanganj.

Correction

Lawmaker ABM Abul Kashem sent a clarification regarding 'The Daily Star' report headlined 'Ship breaking ordered shut' published on March 18.

The report mentioned that "SM Al Mamun, son of Awami League lawmaker Abul Kashem Master, destroyed 125 acres of Para forest in Sonachharia, planted 18 years ago, to build a shipyard after the AL came to power".

In the clarification Abul Kashem said his family owns the shipyard called m/s Unique Traders, established on February 9, 2009 on a 5.25-acre patch of land. Of that land, 2.5 acres were privately owned land of his family and the rest 2.75 acres were leased out by the government in favour of their ship-breaking yard.

There was no tree on the yard owned by his son SM Al Mamun, the lawmaker said in the statement, adding that destruction of Para forest was not true.

Students asked to devote more to knowledge-based learning

METRO DESK

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Hasan Mahmud has said students should devote themselves more to knowledge-oriented learning to pave the way for establishing a Digital Bangladesh within the next ten years.

He was speaking at a reception accorded to him by the Department of Social Sciences of East West University (EWU) at its Study Centre on Monday, says a press release.

Dr Hasan Mahmud taught environment and ecology for more than four years at the department.

He urged the authorities to take all possible steps to make EWU a centre of excellence.

He also assured the EWU authorities of all cooperation to this end.

Jalaluddin Ahmed, president of the Board of Directors, EWU, Prof Mohammad Sharif, vice chancellor, and Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Fazlur Rashid Khan also spoke at the programme chaired by Prof Bijoy P Barua, head of the department.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Amir Ali Chowdhury will be held at the old DOHS (Banani) Community Centre in the city after Maghrib prayers today (Wednesday), says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to join the prayers for peace and salvation of the departed soul.