

# Trial of war criminals to be transparent

Dipu Moni tells Moriarty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador James F Moriarty called on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at her office at the foreign ministry yesterday and discussed various bilateral and international issues.

At the meeting, the foreign minister said the trial of the war criminals would be held in a fair and transparent manner.

Though the trial, which is a demand of time, a long-standing issue would be settled, she said. Dipu Moni also said, "The present government is committed to upholding human rights and the situation has already improved significantly."

The government is trying to prevent extrajudicial killings and all agencies concerned have been directed to this end, she added.

Climate change issue, Rohingya refugee

issue, migrant workers' issue and militant issue also came up for discussion.

After the meeting, the US ambassador told reporters that he has requested the foreign minister to recognise the independence of Kosovo.

He also said that Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates have already recognised Kosovo.

At the meeting, Dipu Moni said the international community at the climate change conference in Norway last week expressed concern for the countries like Bangladesh.

She said the melting of glaciers in the Himalayas and the rise in the sea level has posed a threat to Bangladesh.

She pointed out the areas for which Bangladesh needs international assistance to offset the impacts of the climate change.

# Kuwaiti, Nigerian teams call on army chief

METRO DESK

A team of Kuwait House of National Works led by its President Yousuf Abdul Wahab Al Ameer called on Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed at Army Headquarters yesterday, says an ISPR press release.

They exchanged greetings and discussed on matters of professional interest during the meeting.

Later, a presentation was arranged on 'Military engineering role in national development and in international peace effort' for the delegation.

Meanwhile, a 19-member delegation of Nigerian National Defence College (NDC) led by Rear Admiral TJ Lokoson also called on the army chief at Army Headquarters yesterday.

They also exchanged greetings and discussed on matters of professional interest.

Later, Director of Military Training Brigadier General Mozammel briefed the delegation on different activities of Bangladesh Army at its headquarters.

The team also visited Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST), Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) and National Defence College (NDC) at Mirpur Cantonment.



A team of Kuwait House of National Works led by its President Yousuf Abdul Wahab Al Ameer calls on Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed at Army Headquarters at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

# Navy Ship Turag to join defence exhibition in Singapore

METRO DESK

Bangladesh Navy Ship 'Turag' left Mongla port yesterday for Singapore to join the 7th International Maritime Defence Exhibition (IMDEX) Asia-2009 scheduled to be held from May 12-14, says an ISPR press release.

Nineteen officers and 71 sailors will take part in the exhibition under the command of Commander M Saidur Rahman.

The ship is expected to return Bangladesh on May 26.

# Japan's child population drops to record low

Says govt survey

AFP, Tokyo

The number of children aged under 15 in Japan hit a record low of 17.14 million as of April 1, the government said on Monday, the latest sign of the nation's rapid shift to an increasingly elderly society.

The child population was down by 110,000 from a year earlier, marking the 28th consecutive annual decline, according to a report released by the internal affairs ministry.

It was the lowest since 1950, when the government began releasing breakdowns of its population, the ministry said.

The report also showed that children's share of the nation's entire population stood at 13.4 percent, compared with 22.5 percent for a population of people aged over 65.

# Climate change 'cultural genocide' for aborigines

AFP, Sydney

Climate change would force Australia's Aborigines off their traditional lands, resulting in "cultural genocide" and environmental degradation, a human rights watchdog warned yesterday.

Australia's original inhabitants, whose cultures stretch back many thousands of years, Aborigines would be deeply affected by the impact of global warming, the government-funded Human Rights Commission said.

Rising sea levels and soaring temperatures would make their homelands uninhabitable, severing spiritual links and laying waste to the environment, according to the commission's annual Native Title Report.

"Problems that indigenous Australians will encounter include people being forced to leave their lands, particularly in coastal areas," the report said.

# Militant issue created to misrepresent Islam: Nizami

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami yesterday said the issue of so-called Islamist militants has been created in the country with a view to misrepresenting Islam.

He also said that efforts are going on to label the country as a militant country in order to make it a failed state.

The Jamaat chief said this while speaking as the chief guest at a view exchange meeting with journalists at a city restaurant. Dhaka city unit of the party organised the event as part of its countrywide fortnight-long mass contact programme.

Jamaat, a religion-based political party who opposed the Liberation War, started the mass contact programme at a time when the government took an initiative to bring the war criminals to book.

At the view exchange meeting, Nizami alleged that the Southeastern Analysis Group, an internet-based organisation, has been spreading propaganda through website to brand South Asian countries, including Bangladesh, as risky states.

He also alleged that those who are the initiators of war against terror are actually spreading militancy worldwide.

Central and city unit leaders of the party were present at the view exchange meeting.

At the end of the meeting, four books, including 'Allegation of war crimes against Jamaat and Jamaat leadership is false and provocative', a Jamaat publication, and 'Islam and International Terrorism' by Motiur Rahman Nizami, were given to the audience. Two other books are translated books of Syed Abul A'la Moududi.

# Two killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

Two people were killed and five others injured in separate road accidents in Comilla and Khulna in last two days.

A correspondent from Comilla: One person was killed and two others injured in a road accident at Katherpul in Dhaka-Chittagong highway under Chandina upazila in Comilla yesterday.

The dead were identified as Monir Hossain, 28.

Police said the accident occurred at about 5.30am when a Chittagong-bound covered van collided head-on with a Dhaka-bound truck, leaving Monir dead on the spot and two others injured.

The injured were sent to Chandina Health Complex. Our correspondent in Sathkura reports: A private car driver was killed and three others, including a college teacher were injured in a road accident on Sathkura-Khulna road at Kathalata in Dumuria upazila in Khulna on Sunday night.

The dead was identified as Alamgir Hossain, 25, son of freedom fighter Abdul Gafur. Quoting locals police said the accident occurred when the private car skidded of the road, leaving Alamgir dead on the spot and three others injured.

The injured were taken to Khulna 250-bed Hospital. Later, one of the injured was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

# TV news presentation course ends

METRO DESK

A month-long training course on 'TV news presentation' organised by Bangladesh Institute of Journalism and Electronic Media (BIJEM) concluded on May 3, says a press release.

International Theatre Institute (Global) President and cultural personality Ramendu Majumdar was present as the chief guest and distributed certificates among the participants at a function at the institute.

Ramendu in his speech said training, continuous practice and correct pronunciation can make an expert news presenter. The news presenters should have personality and confidence, he added.

Bangladesh News Readers' Association General Secretary Nilufer Karim was present as the special guest with BIJEM Executive Director Mirza Tarequl Qader in the chair.

Renowned TV news presenters, TV journalists and phoneticians conducted the course. A total of 38 participants, including 28 female students of different universities and colleges, took part in the course.



International Theatre Institute President Ramendu Majumdar gives away certificate to a participant of a training course on 'TV news presentation' at a function at BIJEM conference room in the city on May 3. On his right is Mirza Tarequl Qader and on his left is Nilufer Karim.



US Ambassador James F Moriarty calls on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at her office at the foreign ministry in the city yesterday.

# 2280 bottles of Phensidyl seized in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-5) seized 2,280 bottles of Phensidyl and a private car and arrested its driver in this connection in Bogra yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Hafizul Islam.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab members intercepted the Dhaka-bound private car from Bangla Hill land port at around 7:30am and seized the Phensidyl.

Rab took the driver to their custody for primary interrogation.

# Decomposed body recovered

CU CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered a decomposed body of an unidentified person aged about 40 from Ashkar Dighi under Kotwali Police Station in the port city yesterday.

Sources said locals found the body floating at the Dighi (large pond) at around 9.30am and informed the matter to the police.

Later, police recovered the body and sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

# BANGLADESHI EXPATRIATES IN AUSTRALIA

## Standards of edn, income high

Says high commissioner

METRO DESK

The standard of education and income of the Bangladeshi expatriates in Australia is comparatively high in the spectrum, said Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dr Justin Lee yesterday.

He said this when he called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud at the latter's office. During the hour-long discussion, they discussed issues of mutual interest.

Stressing the three cornerstones of the foreign policy of the present government -- economy, ecology and security, the state minister also recalled the contribution of the Bangladeshi expatriates in the socio-economic development of both Bangladesh and Australia.

Mahmud gratefully recalled Australia's recognising Bangladesh after her birth in 1971 while the high commissioner said his country is even more attached to Bangladesh now by means of both bilateral cooperation and regional and sub-regional mechanisms such as Saarc, ARE, etc.

The Australian high commissioner highlighted the gradually increasing assistance through Australian Development Cooperation programmes. Mahmud asked for Australian assistance and involvement in the development of alternative energy resources, including solar systems - especially for the coastal and islandic inhabitations.

The state minister also sought Australian participation in the climate change adaptation fund of the government.

Justin Lee expressed his desire to work for improving the condition of the underprivileged.

Australian Deputy High Commissioner Kilmeny Beckering Vickers and Director General (Europe) of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Gousal Azam were also present during the meeting.

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