

Bangladesh seeks OIC help to attain MDGs

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni called on OIC Secretary General Prof Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu in Damascus yesterday and sought cooperation from the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to help Bangladesh attain Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Dipu Moni, who went to Syria to attend the 36th ICFM, apprised the OIC secretary general of the recent political and socioeconomic developments in Bangladesh.

She said Bangladesh is on the right track to attain most of the MDGs and sought cooperation from OIC, according to a message received here.

Dipu Moni congratulated Dr Ekmeleddin on his re-election to the post of OIC secretary general and invited him to visit Bangladesh.

Dr Ekmeleddin said he is keen to visit Bangladesh. Democracy is the best system of governance and people's will and desire are of prime importance in ruling a country, he added.

Dipu Moni also informed Dr Ekmeleddin of the establishment of an independent Human Rights Commission in Bangladesh and extended her support to him for establishing a similar Commission in OIC.

Syrian FM Dipu Moni also called on her Syrian counterpart Walid al-Moallem and praised the development of Syria under the leadership of President Bashar al-Assad.

During the meeting, she emphasised the territorial integrity of Syria and unequivocally extended the support of Bangladesh to recover the occupied Golan Heights and Sheba Farms, according to a message received here.

The foreign minister hoped that bilateral relations between Dhaka and Damascus would continue to grow in the future through more trade and commerce.

She mentioned the import of jute and jute products by Syria, saying that Bangladesh had other export products of importance to Syria like readymade

garments, pharmaceuticals, ceramics, mid- and small-sized ships, leather products, etc.

Dipu Moni also stressed recruitment of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled manpower from Bangladesh. She said Syria could be a good source of lentils for Bangladesh.

The Syrian foreign minister praised the Bangladeshi workforce and assured his assistance to secure the rights of Bangladeshi workers.

He expressed his desire to visit Bangladesh at a suitable time in future.

IOM Director General She also met with Director General of IOM William Lacy Swing and discussed the Rohingya problem and capacity building of Bangladesh in training the migrant workers.

Both of them agreed that concerted efforts should be taken by all countries concerned to check the process of human trafficking and to safeguard the rights of the migrant workers in the receiving countries.



PHOTO STAR

Khulna City Mayor Talukdar Abdul Khalek and Panel Mayor Azmal Ahmed Tapan write their pledges on a banner at Shaheed Hadith Park in Khulna yesterday as part of the 'Bodle Jao, Bodle Dao' (Change yourself, change others) campaign of the daily Prothom Alo.

61 women pledge to change society in Cox's Bazar

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A total of 61 women in Cox's Bazar yesterday pledged to change themselves to bring about a positive change in the society as part of the 'Bodle Jao, Bodle Dao' (Change yourself, change others) campaign of the daily Prothom Alo.

"This campaign can wipe out evils from the society," wrote Rebecca Sultana, a teacher at the computer science department of Cox's Bazar Women's Kamil Madrasa, on the banner at the Cox's Bazar regional office of the Prothom Alo.

Sharmin Sultana, a student of Cox's Bazar Government College wrote, "I won't marry someone who demands dowry. He also has to be a non-smoker."

Housewife Tafrida Khanam pledged, "I will vote for Cox's Bazar everyday in a bid to make it the best among the world's seven natural wonders. I will also encourage another five people to do so."

Music teacher of Udichi Chaitry Kasari wrote, "We will not waste electricity."

Amena Khatun, headmistress of Cox's Bazar Government High School, wrote, "We will try to ensure creative and productive education."

Among the 61 women, 28 were teachers and students of Cox's Bazar Government Women's College.

Shirin Noor Chowdhury, teacher of political science

department of the college, wrote, "I will not behave badly with the domestic helps."

Sultana Dilruba, a teacher of History department, pledged, "We will shun all meanness."

Anamika Dutta, an artist of Cox's Bazar Radio Station, wrote, "I will give music lessons to at least 20 poor children in my neighbourhood."

Acting principal of the college Sarwar Alam wrote, "I will spread the light of knowledge among women and work for the overall development of the humankind."



PHOTO STAR

Youth in Action on Climate forms a human chain in the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) area on Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding that the authorities do not hand over the control of Multi-donor Trust Fund to the World Bank.

TWO ARMS CASES AGAINST ACTOR DIPJOL SC vacates stay orders on HC verdicts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday vacated its chamber judge's orders staying the High Court (HC) verdicts acquitting film actor and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) ward councillor Monwar Hossain Dipjol in two arms cases.

Dipjol was earlier sentenced to 24 years' imprisonment in the two cases by separate trial courts in the capital.

The four-member full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, passed the orders to vacate the HC verdicts upon two separate petitions by Dipjol.

Dipjol's lawyer Advocate Khandker Mahub Hossain told The Daily Star that following the SC orders there is no legal bar to his client's release from jail.

The HC on April 26 this year acquitted Dipjol in the two arms cases.

The government filed two separate petitions with the SC to stay the HC verdicts.

Upon the government petitions, the chamber judge of the SC on May 3 stayed the HC verdicts for three weeks.

Dipjol recently filed two petitions with the SC to vacate the chamber judge's order.

On December 10 last year,

Dipjol, also a BNP leader, was sent to jail, a day after he was arrested from a house at Adabar in the city after two years in hiding.

Dipjol, who went into hiding after January 11, 2007, was earlier given 45 years' imprisonment for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition and dodging income tax while his wife Romana, now on bail, was given seven years' jail for the same offences.

Additional Attorney General M Enayetur Rahim appeared for the government.

Labourer killed in road accident

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A labourer was killed in a road accident on Kishoreganj-Bhairab highway at Sagra in Kishoreganj Sadar early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Manjurul Haq, 35.

The accident took place when a Sunamganj-bound goods-laden truck from Trishal turned turtle.

Manjurul was travelling on the truck.

Cop gets 2 years for taking bribe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a sub-inspector of police to two years' imprisonment for taking bribe from an accused in a case he was investigating.

Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge ANM Bashir Ullah pronounced the verdict in presence of convict SI Mainul Ahsan. The verdict said the charge against the defendant had been proved beyond doubt.

The court also penalised Mainul Tk 5,000 in default of which he will have to serve another month's imprisonment.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence lawyers had completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 11 prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution,

SI Mainul was assigned to investigate a criminal case filed against one Mozammel Haq with Cantonment Police Station last May. During the investigation, the SI demanded Tk 50,000 from Mozammel in exchange for relieving him of the charge. The SI also threatened to arrest his 108-year-old father if he failed to pay the sum.

Helpless, Mozammel asked SI Mainul to meet at a restaurant in Tejgaon on June 12, 2008. Meanwhile, he had informed the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of Mainul's intension. ACC personnel arrested the SI red-handed as he was receiving Tk 5,000 from Mozammel.

A case was filed against SI Mainul the next day and ACC pressed charges against him last August.



PHOTO STAR

National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Port stages a demonstration in front of Khilgaon Taltola Super Market in the city yesterday demanding an end to the ongoing power crisis.

ICTJ Asia Director meets Hasan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asia Director of the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) Patrick Burgess called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud at the latter's office yesterday.

During the meeting they discussed issues related to the trial of the war criminals.

Patrick Burgess said correct information and data are important for proper trial of any crime.

His organisation provided technical support in collecting data and in the trial process for

violation of human rights in Cambodia, he said.

He added that ICTJ is ready to provide experts with training and technical assistance for trying the war criminals in Bangladesh.

Dr Hasan Mahmud requested him to provide Bangladeshi judges with technical support in the light of the experience of his organisation for holding a transparent and internationally acceptable trial of the war criminals in Bangladesh.

Burgess assured the state minister of providing assistance in this regard.

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