

# Joint efforts a must to face climate change

PM tells Indonesian envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina emphasised joint efforts of the Southeast Asian nations for eradicating poverty through accelerating economic development and facing the challenges stemming from global climate change.

She made the remarks when Ambassador of Indonesia Zet Mirzal Zainuddin paid a courtesy call on her at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday. They discussed matters of bilateral interest like trade, investment and progress in democratic governance.

The PM said poverty is the main enemy of this region and natural calamities in the Southeast Asian countries, including Bangladesh and Indonesia, are emerging as a perennial problem because of global warming.

"Without combined efforts, it will be very difficult to face such problems," she told the Indonesian envoy, whose country frequently faces disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis.

Hasina also underscored the need for regular meeting of the Bangladesh-Indonesia Joint Commission to expedite development and further strengthen the existing brotherly relations between the two Asian countries.

As the prime minister and the envoy discussed the existing trade gap between the two countries, Hasina said the trade gap could be reduced through removing tariff and non-tariff

barriers to Bangladesh and Indonesia in the global trade.

"Besides, Indonesia can play an effective role in reducing the trade gap by investing in Bangladesh in larger volumes in ICT, tourism development, garment and petrochemical sectors," she said.

She urged Indonesia to import more jute and jute products, leather goods, shrimp and software from Bangladesh.

Mentioning the quality medicines manufactured in Bangladesh, she said the country exports its medicines to some 72 countries as these are of high quality, but cheap.

Indonesia can also import medicines from Bangladesh.

Hasina also requested the Indonesian government to arrange scholarships for the students and professionals of Bangladesh in the esteemed institutions and organisations of Indonesia.

She and the Indonesian envoy noted with satisfaction that democratic forces are in government in both the countries and hoped that people would be able to attain the desired development under the present leaderships.

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the meeting.

Prime Minister's Office Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman and former Ambassador M Ziauddin were present.

## Gaziul Haque laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gaziul Haque, a language movement veteran and freedom fighter, was laid to rest with state honour at his family graveyard at Sultanganj Para in Bogra yesterday.

Earlier, his namaz-e-janaza was held at Alafunessa playground in the town. His body was also kept at the Shaheed Minar for the people to pay their last respects, reports our staff correspondent in Bogra.

Gaziul Haque passed away at the Squire Hospital in Dhaka on Wednesday after a prolonged illness. His body was taken to Bogra yesterday afternoon.

In the morning, his body was kept at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka after his first namaz-e-janaza was held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at 10:00am.

People from all walks of life thronged the Shaheed Minar to pay their last respects to the language movement veteran.

Cabinet members, educationists, politicians, teachers, students, writers, litterateurs and other professionals placed wreaths on his coffin.

On behalf of President Zillur Rahman, his Military Secretary Maj Gen M Ehtesham Ul Haq and on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her Military Secretary Brig Gen Md Salahuddin Miagi placed wreaths at the coffin of the language hero.

"The country has lost not only a language movement veteran but also a person who fought for the rights of people," said Abdul Matin, another language movement veteran.

In a condolence message, President Zillur Rahman expressed his deep shock, saying that the death of Gaziul Haque is an irreparable loss to the nation.

"He played a significant role in all democratic movements, being imbued with the spirit of the War of Liberation," the president said.

In a similar message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the death of "the great patriotic educationist and intellectual is an irreparable loss to the nation."

In another message, leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said the nation will forever remember the outstanding role of Gaziul Haque in building the nation.

Meanwhile, different political, social and cultural organisations expressed deep condolence at the death of the language movement veteran.

The organisations include Forum for Secular Bangladesh, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation, Sammilita Ainjibi Somonoy Parishad, Gono Forum, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, Gonotrantik Bam Morcha, Bangladesh Samajtrantik Dal, Jatiya Samajtrantik Dal (JSD), Udichi Shilpa Gosthi, Karmaojibi Nari, Ain O Salish Kendro, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Dhaka University Teachers' Association, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jot, Bangabandhu Lekhok Parishad, National Awami Party (NAP), Revolutionary Workers party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh LLB Lawyers Association, Dakkhin Bangla Jubo Kallayan Samity, Jatiya Gonotrantik League, Bangladesh Nari Mukti Andolon and Gonotrantik Ainjibi Samity.

Dhaka Progressive Lions Eye Hospital in Narsingdi opened two more wards on Thursday.

On the occasion, a discussion was held with Lion Jiendra Lal Bhowmik, Chairman of the managing committee of the hospital, in the chair.

The newly constructed wards on the third floor of the hospital were named after late Shoshi Mohan Saha and his wife Hiron Bala Saha, parents of Chief News Editor of BSS Swapan Kumar Saha.

Swapan donated Tk one lakh for the development of the hospital.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK

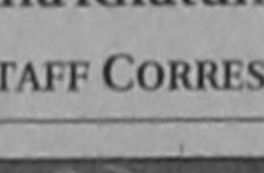


Today is the fourth death anniversary of AT M Mozammel Haque, a freedom fighter and former deputy director of Bangladesh Ansar & VDP, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be held at Khanika Lodge at Shaheed Rafique Sarani, (opposite to T & T Exchange) in Singair under Manikganj district after Juma prayers.

Afia Khatun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 4th death anniversary of Afia Khatun of Purnamoti village at Burichang

upazila in Comilla, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at her village home today.



Hundreds of vehicles get stuck in gridlocks on different roads in the city yesterday, causing immense suffering to commuters. The picture was taken from in front of Hotel Sonargaon.

## ANTI-CRIME DRIVES

# Arms, car, fake driving licences seized: 11 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers in separate drives in the city and in Comilla yesterday recovered seven firearms, a private car, equipment for producing forged driving licences and sedative tablets and arrested 11 people in this connection.

Darussalam police recovered three rifles, one light gun (LG) and a spare part of a gun from a polybag wrapped in a sack which was left abandoned at the luggage box of a bus at Gabtoli bus terminal.

Officer-in-Charge Lutfur Rahman of Darussalam Police Station told The Daily Star that a passenger bus of Hanif Paribahan from Cox's Bazar reached the terminal around 10:45am.

All the luggage except the bag was taken away by passengers, he said, adding that as the bag was left abandoned in the luggage box, the bus staff informed police of the matter and they recovered the arms.

He said they also found a notebook in the bag. They were investigating the matter as per information in the notebook.

Meanwhile, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members recovered two pistols, one locally made LG and arrested three people who were allegedly taking preparation to

commit a crime at Padua Bazar in Comilla Sadar.

Rab-11 men arrested Zakir Hossain alias Titu, 28, with two rounds of cartridges. According to his information, they also arrested Habib Ullah, 22, and Mohibullah, 25, from Madhya Bazar area at Barura upazila and seized the arms from their possession.

In another incident, members of Rab-3 seized a private car and recovered Tk 30,000, a cellphone set from the city's Paltan intersection yesterday night and arrested two snatchers.

The arrestees identified as Mainuddin, 47, of Naya Paltan, and Mohammad Siddique, 32, of Pallabi in Mirpur, informed the police that driver Alamgir of the seized car used to join the gang after dropping the car owner at his residence. Alamgir managed to escape the scene, leaving the car, Rab sources said.

Capt Taifur Mahub told this correspondent that in primary interrogation, the arrestees revealed that the recovered amount was a portion of Tk 1,47,000 they snatched from one Omot Chowdhury on May 10 night from Paltan area.

Meanwhile, detective police recovered 220 pieces of sedative tablets and arrested four

people in this connection from Kakrail area in the city.

The arrestees were identified as Dalim, 29, Nantu Mollah, 34, Akkas, 29, and Shariful, 25.

Detective police said on information, they arrested the four in front of Rajmoni Cinema Hall at Kakrail where they were taking preparation to commit crimes by doping their prey.

In another incident, Rab-4 seized equipment for producing fake driving licences, 225 pieces of fake driving licences and sheets for printing such licences and arrested two people, including a woman.

The arrestees were Badal, 32, son of Manik Bepari and Mukul Akter, 35, wife of Abu Taleb of Priangan Bazar Road at Darussalam in the city.

Assistant Police Super Minhajul Alam said acting on a tip-off, a Rab team led by Lt Mohiuddin Majumder conducted a raid at the house of Mohammad Abu Taleb and arrested the two and recovered the equipment and forged licences around 7:00am. Two others of the house managed to flee the scene.

He said they suspected that some dishonest employees of BRTA might have their involvement in trading forged driving licences.

## Body formed to probe Moghbazar rail crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has formed a four-member committee to investigate the Wednesday's accident on Moghbazar level crossing that left at least eight people injured.

"Additional Divisional Engineer (Transport), Mahbubur Rahman is to head the committee," Director General (DG) of Bangladesh Railway Belayet Hossain told The Daily Star at the communications ministry yesterday.

He said pressure of traffic movement, reckless driving and non-compliance with the traffic rules were the reasons behind the accident.

"I have time and again issued warnings about maintaining caution before and during running past the level crossing. But neither the pedestrians nor the drivers follow the instructions, resulting in accidents at the level crossing," the DG said.

Meanwhile, the railway authorities filed a case with the Kamalapur Railway Police Station accusing four drivers of the vehicles rammed by the train.

Bimal Chaki, investigation officer of the case, told this correspondent that police have seized the vehicles and are searching for the drivers to arrest them.

## FNB welcomes budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) yesterday welcomed the national budget for fiscal year 2009-10 saying it incorporated for the first time plan for infrastructure development through public-private partnership (PPP) initiative.

In a statement FNB Director M Tajul Islam lauded the budgetary measures for the development of rural economy, agriculture, local industry, power, information technology and expansion of social safety net, according to a press release.

FNB thinks the budget is not ambitious, rather it is realistic for overall development of poor people, bringing in real change and building up a digital Bangladesh.

Tajul Islam said the budget has given attention to employment generation for the poor and participation of women in small and medium industries.

He also welcomed the programme of distributing books free of cost up to secondary level, increasing allowance for elderly and people with disability, and maternity.

The FNB director said use of digital system in land administration is an important step forward.

He however said the issue of National Land Reform Commission should be reflected in the budget.

## Injunction against lifting of stone, sand in Panchagarh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Panchagarh court yesterday issued an injunction against lifting stone and sand using heavy machineries and causing damages to environment and ecology of the district.

AKM Enamul Karim, district judge of Panchagarh, issued the injunction following a petition filed by Raihanur Rahman, managing director (MD) of Moynaguri Tea Estate, on June 17.

Court sources said a show cause notice was also served on stone and sand lifters to be answered within seven days.

During his visit to the areas, this correspondent found that over 10 companies including Asia Trade International of Dhaka installed heavy machineries on Dahuk River and extracted underground stone and sand damaging the environment.

Use of such heavy machineries and tractors leading to indiscriminate quarrying and unscientific mining has become a cause of concern for environmentalists.

It has also damaged the riverbanks and irrigation schemes in the area, said the locals.

Leaders of various social organisations also raised their voices against the unabated lifting of stone and sands from different rivers including Dahuk at Bhajanpur and Tentulia.

## Signature campaign to save Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhakabashi conducted a signature campaign at its office at Hazaribagh in the city yesterday to save the river Buriganga from pollution and encroachment.

Dhakabashi President Md Shukur Salek, Members Md Hatem, Shahin Parvin and Sabina Yasmin spoke on the occasion, says a press release.

The speakers said if the river Buriganga is freed from illegal encroachments, a beautiful place like Ashulia can be created along the banks of the branch rivers of the Buriganga.

They demanded the government demolish all illegal structures on the river.

The speakers said the recovered land that was created by filling the river should be re-excavated.

They also thanked the government for starting the demolition drive and urged the government to continue the drive.

## Return to JS to make budget session lively

Muhith urges opposition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday urged the opposition to return to parliament to make the budget session more lively and effective.

He said the opposition is not joining the parliament session because of three issues -- the Cantonment residence of BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia, security of the leader of the Opposition, and seating arrangement in the front row in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Linking the issue of Cantonment residence with the opposition's joining the parliament session has exposed the party's greed, Muhith told reporters after a meeting with Bangladesh Biscuit and Bread Manufacturers' Association leaders at his Secretariat office.

It is not right to link the issue of the residence with the party's joining the parliament, he said.

Muhith also said security for Khaleda has been arranged as per the law made by the previ-

ous BNP government.

About row over front seat in parliament, he said present seating arrangement is better than the one made by the then Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar.

## Eye Hospital opens 2 wards in Narsingdi

BSS, Narsingdi

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## Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Mild heat wave, which is sweeping over Khulna and Barisal divisions and the regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi, Bogra, Dhaka, Faridpur, Madaripur, Tangail and Chandpur, may continue, said Met Office.

It said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:48pm today and rises at 5:12am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 38.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.4 degrees Celsius at Ranganmati.

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
Dhaka	36.5	27.8
Chittagong	34.2	26.6
Rajshahi	38.6	25.6
Khulna	37.0	26.1
Barisal	36.4	28.5
Sylhet	35.2	26.9
Cox's Bazar	33.8	25.6

## DHAKA TODAY

### Conference

Nation Tipaimukh Dam Conference 2009 will be held. Venue: Engineers' Institution. Time: 9:30am.

### Seminar

November 22 Movement organises a seminar on politicisation in mass administration. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

### Discussion

Kendriya Kachi Kanchar Mela will hold a discussion to mark the birth anniversary of poet Sufia Kamal. Venue: Kachi Kanchar Mela auditorium. Time: 10:30am.

### Discussion

A discussion will be held remembering Prof Chowdhury Shamsul Huda Harun. Venue: Dhaka University Senate Bhavan. Time: 4:00pm.

### Conference

The 3rd Central Conference of Bangladesh Garments Sramik Karmachari Federation will be held. Venue: Muktangan. Time: 10:00am.