

DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7, 2009

MORIARTY LAUDS HASINA

Duty-free access of Bangladeshi products to US market discussed

BSS, Dhaka

US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty yesterday lauded the able and prudent leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the recently concluded 64th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session.

The appreciation came when the US Ambassador called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the latter's office.

Moriarty said that the Bangladeshi premier's participation at the UNGA and her speech on various crucial issues like climate change, food security, world economic recession and terrorism were highly acclaimed by the world leaders.

"Sheikh Hasina's visit to the USA to attend the recently concluded UNGA session was fruitful as she had very successful interactions with

world leaders, including President Barack Obama on various crucial issues which the present world is confronting," said James Moriarty. After the meeting, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen.

During the meeting, they discussed various issues including duty and quota free access to Bangladesh products to US market, US investment to Bangladesh, food security, anti-terrorism activities and reopening of Dhaka-New York Biman flight.

In reply, the prime minister told the US envoy that she had fruitful talks with US President Barack Obama, Michelle Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the sidelines of the UNGA session.

During the talks, she said that she had invited the US

president and his wife to visit Bangladesh and they gladly accepted the invitation.

She said during the meeting with President Obama and leaders of UN Peace Keeping Contributing Countries in New York, matters of Bangladesh's representation in UN peace keeping building and policy making levels as well as appointment of Bangladeshi officials at senior posts of the mission were discussed.

Besides, the Prime Minister sought US cooperation in fulfilling needs and problems of expatriate Bangladeshis in the USA.

Referring to Bangladesh's existing political situation, the prime minister said the opposition should join the parliamentary session to speak for the people to fulfill their needs and problems.

"The opposition should join the current session of the

Jatiya Sangsad to strengthen the parliamentary democratic system in Bangladesh and speak for their own people," she added.

During the meeting, the prime minister expressed her satisfaction over the joining of Patrick Kennedy, son of former senator Edward Kennedy, in the Congressional Bangladesh Caucus in the US House of Representative saying that her family had relations with Kennedy's family.

About bilateral relations, they said that excellent bilateral relations is existing between Bangladesh and the USA and expressed the hope that the relations would be further expedited in the days to come.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister MA Karim and Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were present on the occasion.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

PM appries president of US visit

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban yesterday and apprised him of her recent visit to the USA for attending the 64th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session.

During the meeting, the prime minister also told the president that she in her speech delivered at the UNGA session focused on issues like adverse effects of climate change, global economic recession and democratic transition in Bangladesh.

The prime minister also said that she had meetings with US President Barack Obama, a number of heads of the governments and states, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during her nine-day schedule on the sidelines of the UNGA.

She told Zillur that she attended a summit-level meeting with different heads of government or state and discussed UN peacekeeping operations in different countries.

Hasina said she also joined a reception hosted by US President Barack Obama and Michelle Obama at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The president praised the prime minister for addressing the UNGA session in Bangla and raising her voice about the adverse effects and the vulnerable conditions of the least developed countries due to climate change.

Sheikh Hasina left Dhaka for New York on September 21 and returned home on October 1 after attending the 64th UNGA session that began on September 23.

Secretaries concerned of the Bangabhaban and the Prime Minister's Office were present during the meeting.

DECEMBER 29 ELECTION EXPENSES

114 contestants sued for failure to submit returns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has filed cases against 114 contestants of the December 29 parliamentary elections in connection with their failure to submit returns of election expenses. Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad told the House yesterday.

Candidates facing cases include late former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, former home minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Bangabhaban Siddiqui, former state minister for education Ehsanul Haque Milon and Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury.

In response to a query of Jatiya Party lawmaker Salma Islam, the information minister, who is also in charge of the EC Secretariat in the parlia-

mentary business, disclosed the list of 114 persons.

According to the Representation of the People Order (RPO), candidates contesting in the December 29 parliamentary election were supposed to submit returns of their election expenses to the EC within 30 days of the day the election results were published in official gazette (January 1).

But many of the candidates did not comply with the elec-

toral laws. One could be punished with imprisonment of up to seven years for violating the electoral laws regarding submission of the election expenses' reports.

According to the list placed by the information minister in parliament, most of the candidates who did not submit returns of their election expenses contested the polls with the nomination of minor political parties and failed to win the polls.

Aminul freed from Rajshahi jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former post and telecommunications minister Aminul Haque was released from Rajshahi Jail at 7:45 pm.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld a High Court (HC) order that granted bail to former post and telecommunications minister Aminul Haque in Barapukuria coalmine corruption case.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, passed the order vacating its chamber judge's order that had earlier stayed the HC order.

The HC, on August 26, granted an interim bail for six months to the BNP leader in the case filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

The HC had also issued a rule upon the government and the ACC to explain why he should not be granted regular bail in this case.

Following a government petition, the chamber judge of the Supreme Court last month stayed the HC order for bail.

Aminul, who was sent to jail on July 8 this year in connection with a graft case, recently filed petition with the SC to vacate the chamber judge's order.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq, counsel for Aminul, moved the petition before the Appellate Division.

After hearing the petition, the apex court vacated the chamber judge's order and directed both the parties of the petition to hear the rule for disposal before the HC as early as possible.

Additional Attorney General AKM Zahirul Haque who stood for the government told The Daily Star that there is no bar for release of Aminul from the jail if he is not shown arrested in any other case.

Advocate Ahsanul Karim, another counsel for Aminul, said with yesterday's one his client has obtained bail in all the cases filed against him.

JU admission tests begin Nov 2

A CORRESPONDENT, JU

The admission tests at Jahangirnagar University (JU) for first year students in the 2009-10 academic sessions will begin from November 2.

This is the first time JU will hold its admission tests in MCQ (Multiple Choice Question) system instead of written tests.

Meanwhile, JU authorities are going to introduce three new disciplines in the upcoming academic session.

They are Finance and Banking, Marketing and Information Technology.

JU Registrar Abu Baker Siddique said a total of 1500 students will be enrolled in 29 departments (including three new ones) under five faculties and one institute for 2009-10 academic sessions.

Sale and submission of admission forms have already begun on October 1 and it will continue till October 15.

'Family should focus on ethics to fight social malaise'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said family should concentrate on enhancing moral values and ethics to resist various social malaise which are directly linked with violence, terrorism and drug addiction in society.

Family break-ups are another crucial phenomenon which also contribute to criminal activities that lead to various social disorders, they said, adding that family education is important to maintain peace and prosperity in the society.

Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Bangladesh organised the seminar to mark its 13th Parents Day at WVA auditorium in the city with its President Zeenat Ara Bhuiyan in the chair.

Addressing the seminar as the chief guest, State Minister for Women and Children Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury said family is the core institution of education of human beings where parents contrib-

ute a lot to building up their children to be good citizens with strong morale.

"Family education ensures social respect as well as to respect women and girl children," the minister said with a call to work together to eliminate all kinds of discrimination against girl children, as they always have become victims of violence and discrimination in terms of education, food and other rights.

Presenting a keynote paper on 'The role of parents in character development', Director of Peace Education-Asia Dr Robert Kittle emphasised the need for sound family life to make the world peaceful.

The seminar honoured two women for their significant contribution to various social services.

The women are Begum Mamtaz Hossain, former headmistress of Udayan School, and writer of popular TV series 'Sakal Sandhya', and Begum Selina Khaleq, social worker and adviser of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

SECURITY FOR BANGABANDHU'S FAMILY
Delwar slates bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday criticised the bill placed in parliament to ensure lifetime security for the members of Bangabandhu's family, terming it unprecedented.

He also labelled the temporary employment programme for young people, "national service", which approved by the cabinet on Monday, as being partisan.

Delwar was talking to reporters at the BNP's central office at Naya Paltan.

The bill titled "Father of the Nation's Family Members' Security Act 2009" was placed in parliament on Monday.

Criticising the bill, Khandaker Delwar said, "Such law does not exist even in monarchy. There is no country in the world which has a rule that stipulates such security for someone's family on hereditary grounds."

He said, "In many countries, former presidents, prime ministers or outgoing heads of the government and state get security for a specific period of time. Our leader Khaleda Zia was also the prime minister. But she is not getting proper security."

Meanwhile, the BNP ruled out reports on a meeting between Khaleda's son Tarique Rahman and Awami League leader Abdul Jalil in London.

Tarique is undergoing treatment in London where Jalil is now staying for business purpose.

During the meeting of the ruling Awami League's Central Working Committee on Saturday, a few workers of the party circulated leaflets claiming Jalil met Tarique. A few newspapers published reports of the meeting the next day.

Delwar yesterday asked the government to enquire the matter. "This is nothing but fictitious and the government should conduct a fair investigation into this matter," he said.

"The government is trying to frame Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman in every issue which is bad politics," he said.



Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Dhaka divisions and at many places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely to occur at places over the country, Met office said.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 6:41pm today and rises at 6:53am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.2 degrees at Rangpur.

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	28.8	25.3	92	88
Chittagong	31.6	26.0	80	83
Rajshahi	29.2	25.2	91	94
Khulna	30.0	25.5	90	92
Barisal	28.2	25.0	96	96
Sylhet	33.3	25.4	71	92
Cox's Bazar	32.2	25.6	86	92

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