

Dhaka to reiterate climate concern at Copenhagen

Hasina tells Wangchuck

UNB, Thimphu

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had an audience with ex-King of Bhutan Jigme Singye Wangchuck at his palace yesterday.

The two leaders discussed ways of enhancing the bilateral trade and business, and government-to-government and people-to-people contacts between the two friendly countries.

During the meeting, the monarch gave special thanks to Hasina for her strong and visionary leadership in the international forums for arranging international assistance for Bangladesh, Bhutan and other countries that are the worst sufferers of climate change due to global warming.

The visiting PM apprised the king that she at the upcoming Copenhagen climate meet will again inform the international community about the vulnerability of Bangladesh, Bhutan and other countries to the climate threats.

During the meeting, the premier and

the former Bhutanese monarch, also discussed various other issues of national, regional and international development.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, Deputy Press Secretary to the PM Nazrul Islam said the Bangladesh prime minister thanked the former king for voluntarily introducing democracy in Bhutan.

In reply, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, father of the present King of the Himalayan Kingdom, told Hasina that democracy in Bhutan was not introduced suddenly in a day. Before establishing democracy, he had worked behind it for 20 years.

As Hasina recalled that Jigme Singye Wangchuck in 1972, as the then young king of Bhutan, visited Bangladesh, he said his family has a familial relation with the family of Bangladesh's Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"We still feel the familial relation and hope for further strengthening of the

relations," the King said.

Hasina thanked Wangchuck for the warm royal receptions accorded to her since she arrived in Bhutan on November 6.

Adviser to the PM HT Imam, Industries Minister Dilip Barua, Commerce Minister Faruk Khan and ambassador Ziauddin were among others present.

Later, Hasina visited Druk Wangyel, a big Buddhist temple located at Dochula height.

On her arrival at the vantage venue, the Bangladesh premier was received by Bhutanese Foreign Secretary Daw Penjore and President of the Center for Bhutan Studies Daso Karma Ura.

Then Hasina and her entourage were escorted to the temple built on top of the Himalayas range.

The PM was briefed about the history of the temple and chortens. Inside the temple, she presented a Buddhist scarf at the foot of the statue of Buddha and lighted a candle there.

UZ PARISHAD ACT HC issues rule on govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule on the government to explain why the provisions of relevant law making the parliament members advisers to Upazila Parishads and making the elected chairmen powerless should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

The court also asked the government to explain why the notifications making the Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) the chairmen of all the standing committees of Upazila Parishads in place of the elected chairmen should not be declared illegal.

The rule also asked the government to explain why the provisions regarding secretarial duties of the UNOs should not be made effective.

A High Court bench of Justice Mohammad Anwarul Haque and Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury issued the rule following a writ petition jointly filed by three Upazila chairmen of Manikganj.

Chairmen of Gheor, Saturaia and Manikganj Sadar Upazilas - Afzal Hossain Khan, Abdul Majid and Ataur Rahman Khan - recently filed the petition challenging the rules of Upazila Parishad (Amendment) Act 2009 and nine notifications issued by the government.

They stated in the petition that the rules of this law and the notifications have empowered the parliament members and UNOs and made the elected chairmen inactive and powerless, and therefore those rules and notifications are illegal and unconstitutional.

Dr Kamal Hossain assisted by Dr Shahdeen Malik and Advocate AKM Jagul Haider Afric appeared for the petitioners.



Novo Nordisk top officials due today

METRO DESK

Leif Fenger Jensen, vice-president of Novo Nordisk International Operations, Switzerland, and Sanjeev Shishoo, vice-president of regional office Far East from Novo Nordisk, world's biggest insulin maker and world leader in diabetes care, will arrive in the city today, says a press release.

They will participate in a symposium titled "Diabetes: A growing challenge for the developing countries" tomorrow (November 10).

The speakers in the symposium include Prof AK Das, director of JIPMER in India, and Prof AK Azad Khan, president of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh.

They will also be launching a five-year project titled "Changing diabetes in children programme" a joint initiative of Novo Nordisk and Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB), supported by the World Diabetes Association (WDF).

The project includes the setting up of three dedicated paediatric diabetes clinics for diagnosis and treatment of children with type 1 diabetes. In addition to basic diabetes care and free insulin, the clinics will also provide patient with education and registration, and training for healthcare professionals.

MADANGANJ RENTAL POWER PLANT Bid requirements fulfilled

Claims Summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed land-based rental power plant of Summit Power Ltd. in Madanganj site has complied with bid requirements, the company wrote to the power ministry yesterday, drawing its attention to ongoing rental power tender evaluation of the Power Development Board (PDB).

Summit sent this letter following press reports that PDB's evaluation committee found the company's bid in Madanganj site faulty as it had proposed a land-based plant, instead of a barge-mounted one as required by the PDB.

Madanganj is one of the eight sites selected by PDB in the ongoing tender for generating 530 megawatt power in the next lean season. Summit and other companies are competing for this site for a 100 mw heavy fuel oil (HFO) plant that would provide power for five years.

In its letter to the power secretary, Summit pointed out that land-based plant has been allowed through query number 14 of the pre-bid meeting and answer to that query.

Summit quoted the query number 14 that states, "Barge-

mounted plant is only asked for Madanganj. However, if for any reason of convenience any offer at any site is made of basis of barge-mounted plant or land-based plant despite the stated information, should that offer deemed to be valid?"

The answer to that query states: "For Madanganj, Barisal and Noapara sites, barge can be offered. However, for placement of Barge at those sites, bidders has to perform the feasibility study for placement of barge and get approval from BIWIA regarding placement of barge, BPDB will act as a facilitator."

The letter added that the Power Division earlier indicated to entrepreneurs that for Madanganj, barge-mounted plant was preferred, but it was not mandatory.

The PDB received 63 bids for rental power projects on October 29. It initially aimed at completing the evaluation within three days with a view to awarding the contracts within this month.

However, the evaluation has been facing a number of issues related to cross-checking of various claims made by the lowest bidders. The PDB is now cross-examining the bid documents.

SEASONAL INFLUENZA Saudi Arabia makes vaccine mandatory for hajj pilgrims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia asked the Hajj pilgrims to take two vaccines -- one against influenza (H1N1) and the other against seasonal influenza -- stating it mandatory.

"The Hajj pilgrims should take at least one of them if the other is not available before their departure," said a press release issued by the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Dhaka, which requested Bangladesh to make the pilgrims aware about the vaccination.

It is Bangladesh government's responsibility to inform the embassy of Saudi Arabia immediately to stop visa issuance for Hajj if the two vaccines or any one of them is not available, it noted.

Hajj visa will not be issued to heart, kidney and respiratory system, neuralgia, diabetes patients as well as to people with chronic diseases, immune deficiency, and pregnant and excessive fatty people, the release added.

Each Hajj and Umrah pilgrim and seasonal workers have to take Meningococcal Meningitis Vaccination at least before 10 days of their entry to the kingdom, the release also said.

The Hajj pilgrims should be aware of the contagious disease with its symptoms, way of spreading and protection from it in particular about the influenza.

The release said carrying foodstuffs by pilgrims to the Kingdom is prohibited if those are not in air-tight pots.

In case of health emergency as per the international rules, the Saudi health authority can take actions in coordination with international health organisation, the press release also added.

Reshuffle in admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday reshuffled some top positions in the administration, including the chairman of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) and press secretary to the president's office.

As per the latest reshuffle, Jinal Abedin, chairman of TCB, has been made officer on special duty (OSD) at the Establishment Ministry.

Abdul Awal, press secretary to the president's office, has also been made OSD at the same ministry.

Besides, AKM Nesar Uddin Bhuiyan, director (joint secretary) of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), has been appointed press secretary to the president while Patit Paban Baidya, who was an OSD (joint secretary) at the Establishment Ministry, has been transferred to the foreign ministry as law adviser.

Nazrul Islam, another OSD officer at joint secretary level, has been appointed director general at National Primary Education Academy, Mymensingh while Zayedul Haque Molla, another officer who was made OSD previously, was appointed project director of Continued Education Project-2.



Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) takes out a colourful procession from Shahbagh in the city yesterday to mark the World Urban Planning Day.

5 murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of five people were killed in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Muggers killed an employee of a hardware store and snatched a cellphone and money at the city's Raysaheeb Bazar in Sutrapur.

The employee was identified as Abdur Razzak, 65, a resident of Chawk Bazar in old Dhaka.

Razzak's relatives said he fell victim to snatchers on the way to his Chawk Bazar residence

around 6:30am.

The snatchers killed him with sharp weapons and took away his possessions, they added.

Sutrapur police recovered Razzak's body around 7:30am from Raysaheeb Bazar and sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Razzak was a manager of an aluminium store in Old Dhaka.

In another incident, a gang of around six muggers riding on three motorbikes shot dead a security guard of a local school at Tajmahal Road in the city's Mohammapur.

The victim identified as Parimal Karmakar, 37, was on duty at Govt Ideal School around 9:15pm.

Witnesses said when the criminals were making attempt to mug in the area, the locals chased them. At one stage, the muggers fired several rounds of bullets that left him seriously injured.

The victim was rushed to DMCH where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Meanwhile, police recovered two bodies from the city's Motijheel and Dhanmondi areas yesterday.

The body of Saddam Hossain, 22, a hotelier in Motijheel, was identified, and

the other one, of a man of about

26 years, could not be identified.

In Motijheel area, Saddam's body with hands and legs tied was recovered around 7:00am from his hotel on Toyenbee Circular Road.

Saddam's uncle Faruq Khan told The Daily Star that Saddam used to live in a hotel room with his two employees.

Both the employees went missing following the incident that caused suspicion that they might have killed him, Faruq said.

In another incident, police recovered an unidentified body around 2:30am in front of Dhanmondi Harun Eye Hospital.

Police sent the bodies of Saddam and the unidentified youth to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue.

Morgue sources said the body of the youth bore marks of injuries with sharp weapons.

Meanwhile, another security guard was stabbed to death at Kadamtali Balurmath last night.

Kadamtoli police said the guard tried to stop the mugging committed by a number of miscreants at 4:30am yesterday.

At one stage, the criminals stabbed him on the spot.

The victim was rushed to DMCH where he succumbed to his injuries.

Seized arms ultimately return to criminals

Muhith tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith at a seminar yesterday said the small arms and light weapons, which the government recovers from criminals, ultimately go back to their possession.

The weapons should be destroyed immediately after recovery, he said.

The minister said the use of small arms and light weapons cause huge economic loss every year across the globe.

Muhith said this at the inaugural ceremony of the regional seminar on 'Peace and security in South Asia: Issues and priorities for regional cooperation on small arms and light weapons control'.

The seminar was organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) and Saferworld, UK, at a city hotel.

The minister told reporters after opening the seminar that the government is going to introduce the national youth service job scheme from next month on a smaller scale to provide employment to one educated member per family.

"The government in its election manifesto pledged to provide jobs for at least one educated member per family. The national youth service programme is being introduced to meet that pledge."

He said, "The scheme will be introduced from December in the initial phase in Barguna and Kurigram districts and later be spread to other districts."

Those who have passed HSC or equivalent examinations would be given necessary training for three months and will be appointed in different government offices as assistants in those offices, Muhith said, adding that the eligible candidates will be in service for two years.

Applications will be invited from those who have passed HSC or equivalent exams and a list be prepared of the deserving candidates, he mentioned.

The minister said the government will try its best to make the programme a success.

BISS Director General Maj Gen (ret'd) Sheikh Muhammad Munirul Islam presided the seminar where Norwegian Ambassador Ingebjorg Stofring also spoke.

ALLOCATION OF FLATS FOR GOVT OFFICIALS Body to probe irregularities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary standing committee yesterday formed a sub-committee to probe alleged irregularities in allocation of about 400 flats for the government officials at Muhammadpur and Lalmatia in the city during the immediate past caretaker government.

At a meeting, the parliamentary standing committee on Housing and Public Works ministry also asked the authorities to create a separate development authority for Cox's Bazar in a bid to develop the area in a planned way.

"We received allegations that rules were not followed properly during the allocation of about 400 flats in Muhammadpur and Lalmatia areas. So, we formed a three-member sub-committee to probe it," Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury, a member of the

committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya sangsad Bhaban.

Lawmaker Johurul Haque Mohon will lead the probe body. It was asked to submit the report during the next meeting of the committee.

The parliamentary committee also asked the housing ministry to come up with detailed reports on how many plots were allocated during the last seven years and who received them.

It also asked the authorities to formulate rules for private housing companies to bring dynamism to the sector.

"We have asked the Housing and Public Works ministry to place draft rules and regulations on private housing companies before the committee's next meeting," said Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury.

About the formation of a development authority for

Cox's Bazar, he said, "The standing committee unanimously recommended forming a separate development authority for Cox's Bazar."

"As it might take two to three years to formulate laws to bring Cox's Bazar under a separate authority, we have also recommended that Chittagong Development Authority can be assigned to do the job of developing Cox's Bazar during this period," the AL lawmaker said.

"We want to develop Cox's Bazar in a planned way to boost tourism and a separate authority is needed to do so," he added.

The committee also asked the ministry to cancel the lease contract of a land near parliament, which was given to the sports club of Public Works Department. "But PWD leased out the land to a filling station in violation of the lease contract," Noor-E-Alam said.

New laws soon to check unplanned housing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

New laws will be enacted to build a planned city so that no one can build unplanned housing projects, State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan said yesterday.

He was speaking at a rally at Shahbagh in the city organised by Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) to mark the World Urban Planning Day.

The minister also said the tradition of breaking laws should be eliminated.

On the occasion, BIP also organised a seminar at its auditorium in the city.

Experts at the seminar said had there been new laws to build a planned city developers would not have been able to build unplanned housing projects.

President Prof Sarwar Jahan chaired the seminar while urban planning expert and University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam was the chief guest.

BIP General Secretary Prof AKM Abdul Kalam was also present on the occasion.

Delwar blames AL leaders for killing Bangabandhu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday blamed Awami League leaders for killing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

"Awami League leaders were behind the killing of Bangabandhu. Some army officials were also with them. But the present government and its allies are now accusing late president Ziaur Rahman of the killing," he said while inaugurating a procession organised by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) to mark the 'National Revolution and Solidarity Day'.

Hundreds of leaders, workers and supporters of JCD joined the procession, which started its march from in front of the BNP's central office at Naya Paltan and ended at the National Press Club in the city.

Delwar said his party doesn't want any conflict in the country and that they are not thinking of launching any agitation programme right now. "We will resist the government if it does not refrain from doing misdeeds," he added.

"The government is doing everything to destroy BNP. Our leaders and workers are being tortured. The government is torturing our party men after taking them on remand, but we are showing restraint," he said.

The BNP leader also said his party would announce tough programmes to resist any 'anti-nation' activities of the government.

Party leaders Amanullah Aman, Fazlul Haque Milon, Nazimuddin Alam, Khairul Kabir Khokon, Habib-un-Nabi Sohel and Shafiq Bari Babu, JCD president Sultan Salahuddin Tuku and general secretary Amirul Islam Alim joined the procession.

Fire incidents in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out in a flat on the second floor of a 15-storey building in the city's Segunbagicha area yesterday while another fire broke out in a washing plant of a garment factory in the city's Pallabi.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire at Segunbagicha originated from an electric short circuit in a law chamber on the 2nd floor of the building around 8:30am, burning down important documents and furniture.

On information, firefighting unit rushed to the spot and doused the blaze around 9:15am.

The extent of loss caused by the fire could not be estimated immediately.

Azmat Fashion Limited at Pallabi caught fire from the dust of the washing plant of the factory on ground floor of the seven-storey building at 7:00pm.

Two units of the fire brigade put out the blaze after fighting twenty minutes.

Panicked workers came down immediately on the street from inside the factory, fire brigade sources said.