

**Foreign missions protected**  
Says foreign ministry

The foreign ministry yesterday said the diplomatic missions, their buildings and premises are protected from any sort of infiltration and they are out of the legal jurisdiction of the host country.

This provision is as per Article 22 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, a foreign ministry press release said yesterday.

Besides, it said, the missions can apply their own authority in taking security and other measures on their premises.

The release came in response to news items published in some newspapers on security of diplomatic missions in Bangladesh.

**Moni Singh's anniversary of death today**

Today is the 19th death anniversary of Comrade Moni Singh, one of the leading organisers of the liberation war and former president of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB).

CPB President Monjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim in a statement yesterday paid tribute to Comrade Moni Singh.

Comrade Moni Singh was a revolutionary, a patriot and an ideal, honest and uncompromising personality, they said, adding that he was a great leader who will be ever remembered as a torchbearer.

On the occasion, different organisations chalked out elaborate programmes, including the seven-day Moni Singh Fair at Durgapur in Netrakona.

**Justice KM Sobhan**

Today is the second death anniversary of Justice KM Sobhan.

On this day in 2007, he passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Birdem Hospital in the city at the age of 82, says a press release.

KM Sobhan was a pioneer in the movement against communalism and fundamentalism in the country.

To mark the day, his family members have organised a memorial meeting at the Bilia auditorium at 4:00pm.

**Arman Ali Khan**

Today is the 21st death anniversary of Arman Ali Khan, a peasant leader and social activist, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Shayani Bokoshia village at Ghatail in Tangail after Asr prayers.

**CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS**  
**Tk 52cr adaptation projects okayed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five projects worth Tk 52 crore were endorsed at a meeting of Climate Change Trustee Board of the ministry of environment and forests yesterday as part of the country's internal actions on combating climate change impacts.

The ministry's trustee board also approved instituting a climate change unit to coordinate programmes on mitigation and adaptation, said a press release.

The projects include strengthening institutional capacity of climate change unit, making ship-breaking yards environment-friendly, sapling breeding for country-wide massive afforestation, coastal afforestation along the embankments and in char areas.

The ministry will implement the projects during the current fiscal.

Other projects also include waste management in Dhaka's Gulshan, Baridhara and Dhanmondi areas and Nasirabad and Khulshi areas in Chittagong through reduction, reuse

and recycle (3R) method.

Environment Secretary Dr Mihir Kanti Majumdar later told The Daily Star that the ambassador of the Netherlands in Dhaka has expressed interests in funding a study on how to make the ship-breaking yards environment-friendly.

"The financial offer for ship-recycling facilities with several million dollars," he said.

The climate unit will coordinate the actions by 12 climate cells attached with as many ministries. The ministry will appoint manpower for the unit in a week.

State Minister for Forests and Environment Hasan Mahmud presided over the meeting where Finance Minister AMA Muhiht, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, State Minister for Water Resources Mahbubur Rahman and State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury.

Finance Secretary Dr Mohammad Tareq, Food Secretary Makhlesur Rahman and Additional Secretary to Cabinet Division Tariqul Islam were also present.

**Land grabbers won't be spared, says minister**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira yesterday warned land grabbers of legal action, saying that the people who grabbed the government lands will not be spared, says an official handout.

"The government will not spare the land grabbers however powerful they might be," he said, directing the concerned authorities to file eviction cases against the grabbers.

The minister said this at a meeting with the members of

agricultural khas land settlement committee under Jamalpur Sadar Upazila at the conference room of Sadar Upazila Office.

Hira asked the local administration to prepare a list of land grabbers and take legal action against them and said, "Legal action will be taken against those who are involved in plundering of state asset and creating anarchy."

Giving a definition of the landless, he said the people who do not have any land or the people

who have lands below 10 decimals will be considered as the landless.

He called on the members of the committee to give correct information to identify the real landless people and help the government give the settlement of khas agricultural lands.

Upazila Chairman Bijon Kumar Chanda, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Alamgir, assistant commissioner (land), chairmen of union parishads and members of the settlement committee were present.

**Speed up Rohingya repatriation**  
**Myanmar urged**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday asked Myanmar to expedite repatriation of all the Rohingya refugees staying in Cox's Bazar for about two decades.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni made the call when Myanmar Deputy Foreign Minister U Maung Myint met her at the foreign ministry.

Earlier, at the foreign secretary-level talks between the two countries in Dhaka on Tuesday, Myanmar agreed to take back 9,000 registered refugees out of the 28,000 staying in two camps.

The foreign minister also stressed resolving the maritime boundary issue in a time bound manner so that Bangladesh can explore its natural resources in the Bay of Bengal.

The two countries are set to hold their next round of Maritime Boundary Delimitation Talks in Chittagong on January 8-9 next year.

Myint arrived in Dhaka on Monday at the head of a

delegation to attend the fourth foreign secretary-level talks between Dhaka and Yangon.

Dipu Moni and Myint discussed a wide range of issues of mutual interest, including enhancing bilateral trade, improving road and air connectivity, relaxing visa procedures for businessmen and developing institutional mechanism for consultation between border forces of the two countries.

Recalling her recent visit to Myanmar to attend the 12th BIMSTEC ministerial meeting, the Bangladesh foreign minister underscored regular contacts between the two sides at all levels.

She also reiterated Dhaka's commitment to resolve all differences with Yangon in a spirit of friendship and goodwill.

Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh Phae Thann Oo and Bangladesh Ambassador to Yangon Anup Kumar Chakma were present at the meeting between Dipu Moni and Myint.



**Wife kills husband in city**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed allegedly by his wife at their Meradia residence in city's Khilgaon yesterday over family feud.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Shahjalal Sheikh, 28, a laundry worker in the area.

On information, they recovered the body, which was found hanging with a scarf from the ceiling of the house, and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Morgue sources said the man was strangled and his legs and right eye of bore injury marks.

Mohammad Swapan, the victim's cousin, said housewife Tania Begum and her men killed Shahjalal and then hanged the body to hide the fact.

Tania and Shahjalal, who got married eleven months ago, used to live in the house as tenants after their marriage, he added.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Nazim Uddin of Khilgaon Police Station said following a scuffle between Shahjalal and his wife Tania, the victim hanged himself while his wife was asleep between 12:30am and 5:00am at the night.

Quoting Tania, the OC said she slept around 12:30am and when she woke up at 5:00am, she found her husband's body hanging from the ceiling.

The police picked up Tania for interrogation.



Chinese Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Hu Zhengyue calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Jamuna in the city yesterday.

**PM seeks Chinese help to set up fertiliser factories**  
*Chinese minister invites Hasina to visit China*

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought Chinese assistance for setting up fertiliser factories and water treatment plants in Bangladesh for agricultural and environmental development.

She made the request when Chinese Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs Hu Zhengyue, now on a visit to Dhaka, met the PM at her official residence Jamuna yesterday evening.

The Chinese minister invited Hasina to visit China in the middle of next year, saying that the people and government of China are 'eagerly waiting to welcome' the prime minister of Bangladesh.

Hasina accepted the invitation and said she would visit China at a convenient time. PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told newsmen after the meeting.

Hasina also said Bangladesh attaches due importance to its relations with China and emphasised the need to increase people-to-people and party-to-party contacts between Bangladesh and China, apart from bilateral ties at government level.

Chinese Minister Zhengyue lauded Hasina's leadership to lead Bangladesh and its people towards the long-cherished development and prosperity of the country.

Hasina sought cooperation and assistance from China in achieving the development goals.

She noted that China, for long, has contributed to the development of various sectors of Bangladesh. "We hope Chinese cooperation and assistance to Bangladesh will continue and increase," she said.

In reply, Zhengyue said the Chinese government will be helping Bangladesh in attaining the development targets.

When the recent United Nations climate conference came up during the discussion, the Chinese minister highly praised Hasina for her hard work and strong voice in the summit events to ensure the rights of the climate-victim countries.

"It was a tremendous achievement of the Summit that all the participant countries agreed to unitedly fight the challenges of climate change," Hasina said.

**70,000 Yaba tablets seized**

UNB, Comilla

Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered 70,000 pieces of Yaba tablets in Keraninagar border area in Adarsha Sadar upazila last night.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of 33 Rifles Battalion conducted a drive at 9:00pm and seized the tablets packed in two cartons worth Tk 5.60 crore.

The smugglers, however, managed to flee the scene.

**Birthday of Novera today**

METRO DESK

Today is the birthday of Novera Deepita, a reporter of The Daily Star and a gold medallist student of the department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University.

To mark the day, her family has taken a number of programmes, including placing wreaths on her grave and recitation of the holy Quran.

Novera passed away on July 27, 2006, says a press release.

Novera Deepita Memorial Trust is going to publish a book after her name titled 'Novera Nirupoma, Deepita Deepannita'.

Novera is survived by her parents, brothers and sister, husband and a number of well-wishers. She was born on December 31 in 1974.

**PM likely to visit Japan early next yr**

Says FM

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh is looking forward to a state visit to Japan by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina early next year, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said yesterday.

She made the remark when Japanese Ambassador Tamotsu Shinotsuka called on her at the foreign ministry.

Dipu Moni said continued Japanese assistance for socio-economic development of Bangladesh is widely appreciated by the people and government of Bangladesh.

She said construction of the Padma Bridge is the top priority project of the government and expressed the hope that the Japanese government would provide financial assistance for the project.

**Obituary**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Ahmad Shafi Maqsood, founder and executive director of the Institute of Hazrat Muhammad (SAW), passed away on Tuesday night at the age of 53, says a press release.

His first namaz-e-janaza will be held at Baridhara Jame Mosque in the city after Juma prayers tomorrow while the second one will be held on the institute premises at House 22, Road 27, Block K at Banani at 3:00pm the same day.

Friends, relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the namaz-e-janaza.

**Rekha Rani Goswami**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rekha Rani Goswami, mother of Tilak Kumar Goswami, joint secretary of Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad and president of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote Khulna district unit, passed away on Tuesday at the age of 75.

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