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China pledges climate help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

China would stand by Bangladesh on climate change issue and extend support in facing the climate change impact, visiting Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Hu Zhengyue said yesterday.

He said this when he called on Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at her ministry.

Officials of the foreign ministry said Hu Zhengyue came to Dhaka after the recent climate change summit in Copenhagen to ascertain how climate change would affect Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Textbooks mission accomplished

PM opens free distribution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The distribution of free new textbooks to the students for the next academic session began yesterday with the inauguration of the programme by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

With the inauguration, the government formally started the massive task to distribute 19 crore textbooks among the students of primary, secondary, ibtedai (primary level of madrasa), dakhil and technical classes.

The government is giving free textbooks to the students of secondary level for the first time. Every year free textbooks are given at primary level. Some 1,868,950 copies of text-

books will be distributed among the secondary level students in the academic year.

In the inaugural programme, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handed over books to 11 students of primary, secondary, ibtedai, dakhil and vocational levels at her secretariat office.

Later in the afternoon, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said, "Distributing the huge amount of books is an epoch-making event in the country as governments in the past could not even think about this."

The prime minister has formally inaugurated the distribution of textbooks to all types

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

31ST NIGHT
Several roads to be blocked off at 9:00pm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several major roads in Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara will be blocked off tonight as a means of keeping security tight over New Year's Eve.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police will close the intersections leading to these areas between 9:00pm and 6:00am and travellers will be forced to take alternative routes.

The only intersections that will remain open are those at Phoenix, Amtali, Kakoli,

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SHIP-BREAKING YARD
5 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least five workers were injured in a ship-breaking yard at Sonaichhari in Sitakunda upazila yesterday afternoon.

Of the injured three have been identified as Ledu Miah, 35, of Moheshkhali upazila in Cox's Bazar, Nayan, 25, and Amir Solaiman, 17, of Mirersarai upazila in Chittagong.

Injured Ledu and Nayan were admitted to Medical Centre (Pvt) Hospital while Solaiman and two others were released after first aid at a local clinic.

A worker of the yard told The Daily Star that Ledu and some other workers were removing mud at the yard around 1:00pm when one of the vertically piled iron plates fell on them and injured several workers.

Sub-inspector Gias Uddin of Sitakunda Police Station said he visited the ship-breaking yard and nothing "serious" happened there. "Only one worker was injured and he was sent to hospital," he said.

The exact number of injured people remains a mystery, as the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

MUTINY IN RANGAMATI
75 more put in the dock

First verdict likely Feb 14

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The BDR special court-4 is likely to declare the verdict on nine alleged mutineers of 12 Rifle Battalion in Rangamati Sector Headquarters on February 14, said senior public prosecutor Mossaraf Hossain Kazal yesterday.

On completion of 12 witnesses' depositions, the three-member special court led by Director General of Bangladesh Rifles Maj Gen M Mainul Islam also adjourned its proceedings until February 14.

Though havilder Ershad

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

CONGRATULATIONS

কমণ্ডে যারা শ্রদ্ধেয়ভাজন, আপনি তাদেরই একজন

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PURBACHAL, UTTARA PLOTS
Lottery picks 2,750

147 plots allotted directly to ministers, lawmakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha yesterday, in the fourth phase, announced the names of 3,116 plot winners of the Purbachal New Town Project and Uttara Model Town Project Third Phase.

Among the winners, 147 plots were allotted directly to the ministers, state ministers, lawmakers and people enjoying the same status.

The names of winners of 2,750 plots in three categories -- government job holders, people serving at different autonomous bodies, and armed forces -- were announced as per their age and salary.

All the 57 applicants of Purbachal project and 83 applicants of Uttara project under the category of minister, state minister, and lawmakers were awarded plots.

Of the 3,116 plots, 2,762 were distributed at the Purbachal project while the remaining 354 at Uttara project.

Rajuk, however, did not announce the names of 60 plots -- 55 at Purbachal and 5 at Uttara -- under the journalist category.

Of the Purbachal project, 1,532 plots under the category of government service holders, 1286 under autonomous bodies and 114 under the armed forces were distributed.

Of the Uttara project, 162 plots under the category of government service holders, 69 under the autonomous bodies and 10 under armed forces were awarded.

The formal draw of the lotteries was held in the conference room of the housing and public works ministry. Rajuk has so far allotted 5,042 Purbachal and 582 Uttara plots.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Consumers Act not enforced in 9 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the commerce ministry to enforce immediately the Consumers Rights Protection Act passed in parliament nine months ago to ensure people's right to quality goods and services at fair prices.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the delay in enforcing the law, the parliamentary standing committee on commerce ministry said people still don't get any remedy for being cheated in the market.

It asked the ministry to recruit manpower to enforce the law to prevent cheating at weight, price and quality of commodities.

"People could not seek redress in absence of a law. But now there is a law to protect their rights and we want its enforcement," committee Chairman Lutful Hye told reporters after a

meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan assured the committee of taking necessary measures to this effect.

In the face of public demand for protecting consumer rights, parliament on April 1 passed the act, with provision of punishment for adulteration, faking products, forgery in weighing goods, selling out-of-date items and fraudulence through advertisement.

If found guilty of the offences, an individual or member of an organisation might face imprisonment for one to three years or can be fined minimum Tk 50,000 to Tk 200,000.

The parliamentary body urged people to file complaints through short message service (SMS), e-mail, fax or other means to the authorities concerned, if they are harassed or cheated

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

CONGRATULATIONS

TO MR. SALIM AHMED, CHAIRMAN, ELITE PAINT GROUP OF COMPANIES & MANAGING DIRECTOR, SUPER REFINERY PVT. LTD.

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DUTA POLL
President, general secy reelected

DU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Khondoker Bazlul Hoque from pro-Awami League teachers "Blue panel" and Prof ABM Obaidul Islam from pro-BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami teachers "White panel" were reelected president and general secretary respectively in the Dhaka University Teachers' Association election for the term 2010.

Election of the executive

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

OnlinePoll

Anti-Corruption Commission suggested setting up separate bench at the High Court for quick disposal of the graft cases. Do you think this will help fight graft?

Yes (77.29%)

No (20.50%)

No Comments (2.21%)

Total votes: 634

TODAY'S POLL

Are you optimistic that the year 2010 will be better for us than the year 2009?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

December 31

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	6-30	7-05
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	4-00	5-15
Maghrb	6-27	6-30
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

যমুনা গ্রুপ-এর ঠিকানা পরিবর্তন

আমাদের শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষী এবং সফলিত সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, আগামী ১ লা জানুয়ারী ২০১০ সাল হইতে যমুনা গ্রুপের প্রধান কার্যালয় (রেজিস্টার্ড অফিস) নিম্নলিখিত ঠিকানায় স্থানান্তরিত হইবে এবং সকল কার্যক্রম শুরু হইবে।

অতএব, ০১-০১-২০১০ ইং তারিখ হইতে সফলিত সকলকে যমুনা গ্রুপের সহিত যোগাযোগের জন্য নিম্নলিখিত নতুন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইল।

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যমুনা গ্রুপ
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১৯৫ সত্যিবিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০

পরিবর্তিত নতুন ঠিকানা :
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যমুনা ফিউচার পার্ক
ক-২৪৪, প্রগতি সরণি
কুড়িল, বারিধারা, ঢাকা-১২২৯

কর্তৃপক্ষ
যমুনা গ্রুপ
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।

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