

PM's India visit to help improve relations

Speakers tell BBC dialogue

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Speakers at a BBC dialogue yesterday said prime minister's visit to India was a successful one and long-standing issues, including acute shortage of electricity and terrorism, will be solved through the treaties and memorandums of understanding signed by the two countries.

The PM's visit has developed a friendly relationship between the two neighbouring countries which would make easy the way of working together on any issue, they added.

The speakers said this at the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap on 'Different contemporary issues' of the CHT region organised by BBC Bangla Service was held at Parjatan Holiday Complex in the hill town of Rangamati.

State Minister for CHT Affairs

Dipankar Talukder, Chakma Circle Chief Raja Devasish Roy, HR activists advocate Sushmita Chakma and columnist Maj (retd) Mohammed Emdadul Islam were the panellists at the dialogue.

Civil society members, political leaders, businessmen, NGO representatives, journalists and government officials participated in the dialogue moderated by BBC journalist Mithila Farzana.

Underscoring the need for full implementation of the CHT Peace Accord, the speakers said the people living in the CHT areas want to see a 'roadmap' for completion of the remaining tasks.

A decade elapsed after signing of the peace deal, but the main problems in hills like land disputes, rehabilitation of repatriated refugees and internally displaced Jummo people and preparation for a separate voter

list for holding elections to three hill district councils still did not hold water.

Replying to a query, Raja Devasish Roy said, "Everybody, irrespective of party affiliation, has to work together and assist the government for full implementation of the peace deal," adding that a 'roadmap' should be declared immediately by the PM.

State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukder said, "Prime minister is committed to executing the deed fully. I hope we would be able to complete the remaining tasks within the tenure of the government."

"A vested quarter is trying to destroy the existing communal harmony in the areas creating false propagandas against the peace accord. Soon after assuming power, we have reconstituted all committees like CHT Peace Implementation Committee, CHT Refugee Affairs

Taskforce and Land Commission."

About withdrawing of makeshift security camps from CHT in line with the peace deal, the speakers said military presence in hills is not necessary. Only mutual understanding is necessary to bring permanent peace in hills, not army.

Stressing the need for handover of power into three Hill District Councils to recruit mixed local police forces as per the deal, Devasish said mixed local police force is necessary for maintaining law and order situation here.

There has been some decrease in killings, abductions and extortions in the hilly areas remarkably comparing the past, he added.

Dipankar said the prices of daily commodities are still under buying capacity of the people comparing the situation of the previous four-party alliance government.

22,000 health workers to be appointed in rural areas

UNB, Sherpur

Some 22,000 health workers will be appointed this year to expand health care facilities in rural areas through the community clinics, said State Minister for Health Mujibur Rahman Fakir yesterday.

He was speaking at a function marking the opening of Diabetic Samity Bhaban in Sherpur town.

Fakir, a former captain of the army, said 4,000

doctors and 5,000 nurses are being appointed by February. The health workers will be appointed in three phases this year.

He said the BNP-led alliance government had closed down 9,000 community clinics across the country overnight. But the present government has already reopened 8,000 of those clinics.

The state minister said they have a plan for reaching health care to the doorsteps of the people. One community clinic will be set up for each 6,000 people. The plan will be implemented in phases.

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Proshika staffs stage a demonstration in front of the head office at Mirpur in the city yesterday demanding reopening of the office.

Sweet water on decline in Rajshahi city

Study finds presence of iron, hardness, alkalinity

A RU CORRESPONDENT

There has been some decrease at sweet water level in Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) area resulting in the scarcity of drinking water, said a geographical study at the concluding session of the two-day international seminar at Rajshahi University yesterday.

The study said though the earth's surface contains 73 percent of water, sweet water accounts for only 2.53 percent.

Due to the increasing pressure of population, contamination in the sweet water reservoirs and anthropogenic interference, the reservoirs are being degraded resulting in the scarcity of drinking water.

The groundwater level continues to decrease in the RCC area due to the impact of Faraka Barrage over the river Padma. As a result, the

increasing demand for water and its deficit is being observed, it said.

The study highlighted that the presence of higher amount of iron in the underground water, hardness and alkalinity have created problems for water-related activities in the area.

Institute of Bangladesh Studies (IBS) organised the seminar on 'Past and Present of Rajshahi' at IBS gallery where Vice Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan was present as the chief guest.

Chaired by IBS Director Prof Mahbubur Rahman, Prof Rafiqul Alam Rumi, Prof M Mostofa Kamal, Prof AKM Hossain, Prof Sahana Hossain and Dr Ranjit Sen from India addressed the programme.

A total of 30 keynote papers were presented at the concluding ceremony which was followed by a cultural programme.



Over 250 employees of Grameenphone volunteered to clean the street and its peripheral area on Gulshan Avenue yesterday as part of the ongoing 'Clean Dhaka Week 2010' campaign jointly organised by Dhaka City Corporation and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Kazi Monirul Kabir, chief communications officer, Laszlo Barta, deputy chief marketing officer, Captain Bipin Kumar Saha, chief of the campaign, Dhaka City Corporation, and ASM Abdul Alim Naqui, commissioner, Ward 19 of Dhaka City Corporation, were present.

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Uttara Rosewood Areebah 1915 sft	Uttara Lumeire 1728 sft	Nazimuddin Rd. Cristal Plaza Shops & Commercial	Nazimuddin Rd. Park Valley 1259 sft	Middle Badda Penzance 1180~1630 sft	Wari Crimson de Vale 1392~1466 sft	Mirpur Peonenza 1091~1286 sft	West Malibagh Azzaro 1247~1269	Moghbar ANZ Husne Heights 1494 & 1569 sft

SALEABLE PROJECTS (IN CHITTAGONG CITY)

Khulshi Hills R/A Royal Edge 2057~2125 sft	Nasirabad H/S Forest Rain 1370~1619 sft	Nasirabad H/S Winter Sun 1506~1943 sft	Panchlaish R/A Ibrahim Winstone 1496~2145 sft	Panchlaish R/A Moonlight Candelia 2484~2672 sft	South Khulshi Kingswood 1324~1634 sft	South Khulshi Allistar 1340~1550 sft	South Khulshi Rose Heaven 1700~1708 sft	South Khulshi Blue Shore 1628~1687 sft
Nasirabad H/S Joy Bells 2502~2843 sft	Halishahar H/E Block : K Green Bay 1403~1433 sft							

1 sft = 0.092 sqm (approx.)

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