

# Start negotiations on disarmament soon

## Dipu Moni urges int'l community

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Foreign Minister Dipu Moni called on the international community to start negotiations on disarmament as soon as possible. She made the call while delivering a speech at the plenary session of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva yesterday, according to a message received in Dhaka. In her speech, she referred to the positive environment prevailing at the global level and urged the member states to seize this opportunity to

establish a world free from the scourge of nuclear weapons. She also expressed concern at the ever increasing spending on armament and called upon the major arms producing and procuring countries to halt this mindless expenditure. Mentioning that global arms expenditure has reached \$ 1.46 trillion in 2009, the foreign minister emphasised the urgent necessity of freeing these resources for development to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Bangladesh has assumed the presi-

dency of the Conference on Disarmament, the sole multilateral body for disarmament negotiations. Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN Offices in Geneva presided over the session attended by Deputy Secretary General of the Conference on Disarmament and the high representative of the UN Secretary General for Disarmament. Speaking to the delegates of the Conference on Disarmament, Dipu Moni also reiterated Bangladesh's constitutional commitment to general and complete disarmament.



Foreign Minister Dipu Moni speaks at the plenary session of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva yesterday. PHOTO: FOREIGN MINISTRY

# Pvt varsity act to improve standard of education

## Hopes minister

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said the government passed the Private University Act with a view to developing the standard of some private universities that failed to provide quality education. He also said the act was finalised following consultations with all stakeholders concerned. The universities that have

the mentality of doing business would face trouble, he added. He hoped that the act would play a role in developing the standard of the 'failed private universities'. The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar titled 'Drug control and prevention in Bangladesh' organised by North South University (NSU) on its campus, says a press release. Nahid said the government

would take steps to incorporate drug and environment related issues in the textbooks of primary level in future for increasing awareness about these hazardous things. Raising awareness is the only way to prevent drug addiction, he said, adding that families, classmates and teachers can play an important role in preventing the social curse. The minister also said drug addiction not only destroys a family but also puts the entire society as well as the nation at stake. He urged all the students and youths to refrain from taking any kind of drug. Prof Arup Ratan, chairman of Manash, presented a keynote paper at the seminar presided over by NSU Vice Chancellor Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqui. NSU Foundation Chairman MA Qashem and Pro-VC Dr SAM Khairul Bashar also spoke.

## Obituary

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Halima Begum, wife of late Principal Shaikh Sharfuddin and mother of Dr Abdullah-Al-Muti Sharfuddin, passed away due to old age complications at Central Hospital in the city on Monday night at the age of 98, says a press release. She left behind her three sons, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

**Md Idris Ali Master**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Md Idris Ali Master, founder president of Shibpur upazila Awami League in Narsingdi, and father of former lawmaker Kamal Hyder, passed away due to old age complications at the age of 95, says a press release. He left behind his wife, four sons and a host of relatives to mourn his death. He was laid to rest at the family graveyard at his village home in Bailab. Prime minister Sheikh Hasina in a condolence message expressed deep shock at his death.

# Mindless encroachment main reason for city waterlogging: Matia

## Lift house project launched

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury yesterday came down heavily on the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association for constructing its head office, BGMEA Bhaban, on Hatirjheel, a major water body in the city. Mindless encroachment on water bodies and open spaces are the main reasons for severe waterlogging in the city, she said. "Dhaka has now become an unplanned city," the minister said and reiterated the government's pledge to recover all the lands which have remained under illegal occupation over the years.

State minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan. Matia Chowdhury also criticised the apparel businessmen for indulging in tall talks during the emergency rule under the previous caretaker government. "Now they are giving sermons on how to protect the environment," Matia said, adding that those who commit crimes and advise against the same crime are nothing but educated criminals. Speaking on the occasion, Abdul Mannan Khan asked the real estate businessmen to do something for the homeless people. "You (real estate businessmen) have made a hefty profit. Now do something for the people," he said.

Matia made the remarks while speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a pilot project of innovative 'floating house', called the Lift (low-income flood-proof technology) House, at the House Building Research Institute at Mirpur in the city. Finance Minister AMA Muhith also spoke as the chief guest at the programme chaired by

Earlier, Finance Minister AMA Muhith inaugurated a 'Lift' house, designed by architect Prithula Prosun, a student of Waterloo University, Canada. 'Lift' house is such a living house which floats upwards with the rising water level due to flood and waterlogging and returns to ground level when the water recedes.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over a meeting of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne) at NEC conference room in the city yesterday. (Story on B3) PHOTO: PID

# Call member of parliament instead of 'Saangsad'

## Speaker directs lawmakers, media

**UNB, Saangsad Bhaban**  
Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday directed the lawmakers and newspapers not to call Members of Parliament 'Saangsad' mimicking the parlance of Indian newspapers. He gave the ruling during the question-answer session when Finance Minister AMA Muhith, answering to questions, addressed the MPs as Saangsad in Bengali. "I also gave the same ruling earlier--here all are honourable members of parliament, not Saangsad," the speaker reminded. He, without naming any name, also said that

some newspapers in Bangladesh write MPs as Saangsad. Hamid, however, said that it is the freedom of the newspapers to write what they like to and he has nothing to say in this regard. "But, I want to clearly tell you that this is total violation of the constitution and the rules of procedures," he said. The speaker asked the reporters who cover parliament sessions to go local and not to write Saangsad in lieu of MP. "Newspapers in India write this word. But, according to our Constitution and rules of procedures, it is not right in our country," he added.

## Court asks DMCH to use Chandan's body for research

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**  
A Dhaka court yesterday asked Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) authorities to use the body of Chandan Chakrabarty alias Sajjad Hossain for research as his two wives failed to prove whether their husband is a Hindu or a Muslim. After scrutinising the documents placed by two wives Tithi Chakrabarty and Aklima Akhter Polly, First Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ali Hussain passed the order. Meantime, Tithi and Polly told reporters that they would go to the higher courts challenging the legality of the order. Chandan Chakrabarty alias Sajjad Hossain, 45, a teacher of Khilgaon Ideal School and College, was knifed to death by a gang of miscreants on December 25 last year while he was returning to his Khilgaon residence. The magistrate in his order said there arose a question of religious sentiment in handing over the body to his two wives. Moreover, the two wives failed to prove whether their husband was converted to Muslim from Hindu. So, neither Tithi nor Aklima would get body, the magistrate said. Following the incident, Chandan's wives Tithi and Polly submitted separate petitions for handover the body to them for burial. Tithi claimed that her husband's body would be cremated in accordance with the rites of Hindu religion while Polly claimed that Chandan was converted to Muslim before marrying her. So, her husband's body would be buried according to Islamic rituals. The court then recorded statements of witnesses from both the sides to prove the identity of the deceased.

# Free internet for schools, colleges on the cards

## Minister tells parliament

**UNB, Saangsad Bhaban**  
Post and Telecommunications Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju yesterday informed parliament that the government is contemplating providing free internet connections and facilities for use to some schools and colleges for three to six months. The period over, they are to bear the cost and charges at discount rates, the minister said replying to a supplementary during the question hour. He further said that under the government's Digital Bangladesh vision 2021, internet connections will be extended to all districts, upazilas, schools and colleges in phases. Replying to another supplementary, Raju said the government circular of 'no new post office', issued during BNP-led alliance government, will be withdrawn or suspended after consulting the finance ministry. New post offices will be opened wherever found

essential in remote areas of the country. Raju told another questioner that optical fibre connections will be given to 1,000 unions by this year while each union and post office will come under Wimax coverage by 2014. He said 171 officers and employees of 14 post offices and sub-post offices in Dhaka city came under allegations of misappropriation of funds of various fees, including vehicle renewal fees for BRTA. They have been booked and cases filed against them, the minister added. He informed the House that steps for development and expansion of state-run Teletalk have been taken to make it competitive. China has already provided \$211 million dollar credit for the purpose. Some other foreign investors expressed interest to work with Teletalk. Replying to another starred question, the minister said the government has a plan to modernise the postal department.

## Muslim Mia

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Muslim Mia, father of senior reporter of The Daily Saangsad, Rozina Islam, passed away at his Basabo residence in the city yesterday at the age of 65. He left behind his wife, two daughters, a son and a host of relatives to mourn his death. He was buried at North Shajahanpur Graveyard after Asr prayers yesterday. His qudkhya Basabo in the city after Juma prayers on Friday.

## Habibur Rahman

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Habibur Rahman, a social worker and vice-president of Nagorik Forum, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Sunday, says a press release. All have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul. AGRI UNIVERSITY Trial of killer of professor's wife demanded

# Grocer shot dead

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Two local youths brought Amir to Dhaka Medical College Hospital at about 10:15pm where the duty doctors declared him dead. The unidentified criminals forcefully brought Amir Hossein, 32, a grocery owner at city's Dholaipar, to Shahjahanpur in a motorbike, sprayed two rounds of bullets on his chest and left the scene leaving him critically injured. A gang of miscreants gunned down a grocer at Shahjahanpur in the city last night. The unidentified criminals forcefully brought Amir Hossein, 32, a grocery owner at city's Dholaipar, to Shahjahanpur in a motorbike, sprayed two rounds of bullets on his chest and left the scene leaving him critically injured. OC of Motijheel Police Station Tofazzal Hossein told The Daily Star they are yet to identify the motive behind the killing and no case was filed till filing of this report at 11:50pm.

**Cirdap meeting**  
The inaugural session of the Cirdap Second Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development in Asia and the Pacific will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10:00am.  
**Lecture**  
Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research organises a commemorative lecture to mark the 5th death anniversary of its founder chair and former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 4:30pm.  
**Publication ceremony**  
The publication ceremony of the third edition of 'Bodi Miyar Rajakar Diary' by Mahfuzur Rahman will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 5:30pm.  
**Symposium**  
Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission organises a symposium titled 'Nuclear and related technology for human health environment and product quality'. Venue: Commission auditorium. Time: 9:30am.  
**Conference**  
The 15th Conference of South Asian Network Operators Group (SANOG) will be held. Venue: Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University. Time: 9:30am.  
**Seminar**  
National Grassroots Disability Organisation (NGDO) organises a seminar titled 'Unified education and children with disabilities: Context Bangladesh'. Venue: House 56, Road 11, Block C, Banani. Time: 10:30am.

**WEATHER TODAY**

## Dry weather likely

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Weather is likely to remain dry over the river basins in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital at 5:41pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 29.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 8.2 degrees Celsius at Srimongal. 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	27.3	15.2	72	44
Chittagong	27.0	14.0	79	60
Rajshahi	27.4	11.7	83	58
Khulna	27.8	12.5	89	59
Barisal	28.0	10.8	85	71
Sylhet	29.0	12.5	72	49
Cox's Bazar	29.6	13.6	68	59

## Bus-hit motorbike rider dies

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
A motorcyclist was crushed under the wheels of a bus in the capital's Moghbazar intersection yesterday. Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman, 28, was a resident of Kathalbagan, Dhaka. Police said a Farmgate bound bus of Labbayek paribahan from Malibagh intersection hit the motorbike from behind at around 3:00pm. Witnesses said Mahbubur was bleeding profusely. He succumbed to his injuries around 4:00pm as locals rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Police halted the bus with the help of locals but his driver and helper fled the scene. Police said Mahbubur was returning to his Kathalbagan residence after work at a construction site in Malibagh.

## AGRI UNIVERSITY Trial of killer of professor's wife demanded

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Teachers, students and staffs of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University formed a human chain in the city yesterday, demanding trial of the detained driver whose car hit and killed the wife of a professor of the university. Detained driver Fahim Karim's private car hit and injured Rawshan Ara Begum, wife of Prof Nazrul Islam, on January 19 in front of her Dhanmondi residence. She succumbed to her injury at Square Hospitals on January 21, the university sources said. Witnesses said around 300 students, teachers and employees formed the human chain in front of Suhrawardy Hospital at 12:00 noon.

## Include issues of moral values in textbooks ACC chief tells minister

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Ghulam Rahman yesterday requested the primary and mass education minister to take an initiative to include the issues of anti-corruption and moral values in the textbooks of all levels of education. Students should also take oath to fight corruption during their regular assembly in their schools, he added. "It is not possible to eliminate corruption from society unless a change takes place in the mindset of people. The primary and mass education ministry can play a significant role in this regard," the ACC chief said. The ACC boss made the suggestions during a meeting with Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen at his office at the Secretariat in the city. The minister assured him of taking the suggestions into consideration, said a press release. The ACC and the ministry also decided to help each other in identifying the corruption-prone areas in education sector across the country. The minister requested the ACC to remain alert to corruption as the ministry is going to appoint 25,000 more teachers. He also assured the ACC of providing help in digging into corruption in procurement and transportation of the ministry. The ACC chief also handed over anti-corruption posters printed by the commission to the minister.