

## Improving ties success of PM's India visit

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said the main success of prime minister's recent visit to India is that the cold relation between the two neighbouring countries has turned into a warm one.

The implementation joint communiqué and the accords will help eliminate communalism and militancy from both the countries, they added.

The roundtable on 'Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's India Visit: A Review' organised by Sampradikota-Jongbad Birodhi Mancha (SJB), a platform against communalism and militancy, at the LGED auditorium in the city.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) General Secretary Mujahidul Islam

Selim said the time to calculate the achievements and failures of the premier's visit has not come yet.

"The visit was aimed at improving the overall relations between the two countries. The visit should have been taken place earlier."

Blind love for India is bad and, at the same time, blind hatred against the neighbouring country is also bad. Any kind of opposition should be done after evaluating everything objectively from the perspective of national interest, he added.

Prof Syed Anwar Hossain said the key obstacles to implementing the communiqué and the accords would be the bureaucratic complexities. So, this should be removed.

Referring to the criticism of

the opposition party about the visit, the professor of history department of Dhaka University said criticism should be made responsibly.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Bimal Biswas said it is not right to do politics by taking India as an enemy.

The bilateral agreements would help both the countries to do away with communalism and militancy, he added.

Bimal, however, said the visit could be more fruitful if an accord regarding the water sharing of the river Teesta could be signed.

The roundtable was also addressed by presidium member of Gono Forum Pankaj Bhattacharya and Executive Director of Brac Mahbub Hossain.

## Call for bicycling-friendly environment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday urged the government to construct separate lanes to facilitate bicycling in the Dhaka city for the betterment of public health, economy and environment.

The government should take necessary steps to create a bicycle-friendly atmosphere to reduce the city's intolerable tailback and to protect the environment from pollution, they said.

They made the remarks at a rally jointly organised by the Dhaka Cycling Club and WBB Trust at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

Dhaka University (DU) Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the rally while State Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Kamrul Islam were present as the chief guest.

Bangladesh Astronomical Society President Dr AR Khan, Bicycle Merchant-Assembling and Importers' Association



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka Cycling Club and WBB Trust take out a cycle procession from the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday with a call for cycling-friendly environment.

General Secretary Nurul Haque, WBB Trust Project Officer Maruf Rahman and Dhaka Cycling Club General Secretary Azaharul Islam Masum were present at the rally.

The state minister praised the initiative and pledged to extend all kinds of cooperation form the government to create a bicycle-friendly atmosphere in the city.

Prof Arefin said a number of initiatives have been taken to make bicycling popular abroad. So the government and other private organisations concerned should work

together to make bicycling popular in the country especially in the Dhaka city.

Dr AR Khan pointed out that people will get rid of different diseases like diabetes, heart attack, blood pressure, etc if they ride on bicycle regularly because it is a good physical exercise. Moreover, it will minimise both transportation cost and environment pollution.

Maruf Rahman and Azaharul Islam Masum jointly placed some recommendations, including establishing bicycle stands at different spots in the city, reduction of tax on bicycle, introduction of free bicycle system and introduction of parking charge in accordance with time and space.

They also demanded introducing World Cycling Day to make bicycling popular.

Later, a bicycle rally was brought out from the Central Shaheed Minar that ended in front of the National Press Club.



PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

A spectacular boat race was held in the river Halda in Chittagong yesterday. Chittagong Zila Krira Sangstha organised the traditional race.

## 85 get posts in DU BCL committee

Constitution violated

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday declared the names of the office bearers in 85 posts of its Dhaka University committee, which had been lying vacant since formation of its central committee about four years back.

The two-year tenure of BCL Dhaka University unit expired in 2008.

Though the BCL's constitution directs the 101-member university committee, the addition of new names has violated the direction.

A 51-member partial committee to the unit was declared in September 2006 with Sohail Rana Tipu as the president and Sazzad Sakib Badsha as general secretary.

The DU unit Chhatra League President Tipu and General Secretary Badsha approved the committee last

night, said campus sources.

The committee members include Vice Presidents Mostafizur Rahman Mustaq, Yusuf Hossain, Galib Istiaq, Hasan Arafat Abid, Fayed Uddin Hasan, Golam Rasul Rasel, Khorshed, Chanchal Karmaker, Milton Ali Biswas, Porimal Bala, SM Mohsin Uddin Kanon, Zaker Hossain, Moshirur Rahman, Mahsudul Ehsan Sohel, Saiful Islam Sumir, Sumir Kumar, Fuad Hasan, Hanif Mahmud, Ehtesamul Rumi, Michel, Rashedul Islam, Anwar Hossain, Sazzad Ibne Raihan and Reza Sekender, Joint Secretaries - Pankage, Mostak Ahmed, Aminul Islam Sohad, Hasanuzzaman Tarek, Azizul Haq Pasha and Sharmin Sultana Lily, Organizing Secretaries - Asrafur Rahman, Rezaul Karim Pintu, Wasim Uddin Jewel, Sohel Mridha and AKM Badruduzza Masud.

## PM's SIGNATURE Shawkat for stern actions against forgers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Speaker Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali yesterday asked the home minister to take stern actions against persons involved in forging the signatures of the prime minister, ministers and lawmakers.

The deputy speaker, who was presiding over the sitting of the parliament at that time, gave the directive in response to a point of order on the issue.

Taking floor on a point of order, Awami League lawmaker Engineer Enamul Haque said BNP and Jamaat men are copying signatures of the prime minister, ministers and lawmakers and sending those to the ministries to get work permits.

"It's a conspiracy against the government. So, the ministries should not take any step without checking the authenticity of the letters carrying signatures of lawmakers," he said.

## 'Join movement to cancel agreements with India'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday strongly criticised the recent agreements with India and called on all to join a movement to cancel them.

"We will launch a movement soon and stage a protest in front of the foreign ministry," said Mahmudur Rahman, convener of Bangladesh Sammilita Peshajibi Parishad.

The Parishad organised the event at the auditorium of the Institute of Diploma Engineers in the city.

Columnist Farhad Mazhar criticised both the Awami League and BNP, saying that BNP is protesting the treaties only to achieve political gains.

BNP should take preparations to wage a movement to cancel the agreements, he said.

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, former vice chancellor of Dhaka University, said the agreements would increase the gap between the two countries instead of closing it.

President of the National Press Club Shawkat Mahmud presented the keynote paper at the discussion.

## Govt to cancel copy-prone SSC exam centres

Say education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government would cancel the examination centres that will fail to ensure fair, peaceful and copy-free atmosphere during the upcoming Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

The minister's warning came at a view exchange meeting with the secretaries of different centres of Dhaka division at the meeting room of Bangladesh

Technical Education Board.

He said none would be allowed to use any unfair means in the examination centres.

"Come to the exam halls with full preparation; don't even think of adopting unfair means," he said directing the officials concerned to strictly maintain the law and order in the examination centres areas.

Nahid urged the centre secretaries to hold meetings with the people concerned to ensure peaceful holding of the examinations.

Prof Abul Kashem, chairman of Bangladesh Technical Education Board, presided over the meeting while Prof Dr Nitai Chandra Sutrardhar, director general of Directorate of Technical Education, and Dr Nurul Haque, exam controller, also spoke.

The SSC and its equivalent examinations under all educational boards will begin on February 11 simultaneously across the country with around 12,02,864 students sitting for the exams at 1,992 centres.

## Youth stabbed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown miscreants stabbed a youth in the neck and left him in a field at Bhiyapara in the city's Khilgaon area yesterday.

The police rescued the victim, Helal Uddin, 25, at around 5:45am and sent him to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Helal was groaning in pain, Assistant Sub-Inspector Monayem said.

Helal's father Delwar Hossain, a tea stall vendor, told The Daily Star that local criminals called his son out of the house on Monday night at around 10:00pm. Since then he had been missing.



PHOTO: ISPR

Members of a contingent of BANENGINEER-1 offer munajat at Zia International Airport in the city prior to their departure for Congo on Monday. They will join the UN peacekeeping mission there.

## Army deploys new contingent in Congo

METRO DESK

Bangladesh Army has deployed a 180-member new contingent of engineer corps, BANENGINEER-1, in the United Nations Organisations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC), says an ISPR release.

The main body of the contingent of 166 members, including nine officers and 157 soldiers, led by Maj Mohammad Arifur Rahman left Dhaka for Congo by a UN chartered plane on Monday.

Director of Army Headquarters Engineer Directorate Brigadier General Md Shahidur Rahman saw them off at Zia International Airport.

Earlier, a 14-member advance party led by Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Zakir Ahmed left for Congo on January 17.

Bangladesh Army Contingent has been deployed in UN Peacekeeping Mission in Congo since 2003.

February 5-6, 2010

### Australian Education Exhibition

Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Time: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

**Participants**

- Australian Institute of Commerce & Language
- Canberra Institute of Technology
- Curtin University of Technology, Sydney
- Deakin University: MIBT
- Education Access Australia Pty Ltd
- Griffith University
- Holmesglan Institute of Technology
- Macquarie University
- Melbourne Institute of Technology
- Monash University
- RMIT University
- Swinburne University of Technology
- TAFE NSW
- University of New South Wales
- University of South Australia
- University of Southern Queensland
- University of Technology, Sydney: INSEARCH
- University of Western Sydney

Organized by: Australian Centre for Education (IDP Education Pty Ltd) & Australian Trade Commission Australian High Commission

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N.B: Please bring all your academic documents, IELTS score (IF AVAILABLE) as well as photocopies of documents to participate in the exhibition.

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Trade Visitors and Professionals Only No minors below the age of 12 are permitted in the exhibition Free admission with business card or online registration For more information, please visit: www.bangla-expo.com

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