

THAI PRINCESS SIRINDHORN CALLS ON HASINA

PM for concerted efforts to cut poverty

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday underlined the need for taking concerted efforts to fight poverty in the Asian region.

"Poverty is a common enemy in the region. So, we should fight against the social menace unitedly," Hasina said when the visiting Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn paid a courtesy call on her at her official residence Jamuna in the city.

During the meeting, they discussed wide range of issues including further strengthening bilateral relations, especially in trade and business sector, for the benefit of the two peoples, said Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad after the meeting.

Ascribing the existing bilateral relations with Thailand as excellent, Hasina said Bangladesh attaches the highest importance to common social values and heritage of Bangladesh and Thailand. She expressed the hope that the ties between the two countries will be further strengthened in the days to come.

The Thai princess lauded Hasina for her prudent and able leadership in different international forums including the world climate conference in Copenhagen.

She also lauded Hasina's relentless efforts for establishing peace in the region as well as establishing democracy.

In reply, Hasina apprised Sirindhorn of various programmes undertaken by her government in health, agriculture and economic sectors for welfare of the people, particularly the poor.

She said her government has revived the community healthcare project to reach the healthcare facilities to the doorsteps of the



Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Jamuna in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

people.

In agriculture sector, she said various pragmatic and pro-peasant steps have been taken to boost food production aiming at ensuring food security of the people. The PM referred to her government's programmes to distribute agriculture cards among the farmers to support them in buying agri-inputs including fertiliser

and diesel as well as meeting irrigation cost.

Apart from this, she said after introduction of the programmes farmers would be able to open bank accounts without collateral.

Referring to her visit to remote areas in Gaibandha, the Thai princess said she was overwhelmed by the scenic beauty in the country's northern region and hospitality of the

people. She expressed her willingness to visit Bangladesh again in future.

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office Molla Waheeduzzaman, Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Abdus Sobhan Golap and PS to Prime Minister Nazrul Islam Khan were present on the occasion.

Strengthen cooperation with India on security: Sahara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday stressed the need for strengthening cooperation between Bangladesh and India on security issues.

The two countries need to continue working together to strengthen the democratic forces, as both of them face a common threat from terrorism and extremism, she said at the inaugural ceremony of a workshop.

Bangladesh and India condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, she said, adding that security remains a priority for both the countries.

She also said the prime minister's recent visit to India is of special significance to bilateral relations that started from the very beginning of Bangladesh's independence.

Bangladesh Heritage Foundation and

Bangladesh Research and Publications Ltd jointly organised the two-day workshop on 'A new era in India-Bangladesh Relationship: Strategic significance of the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India' at Bilva auditorium in the city, with Adviser to the Prime Minister HT Imam in the chair.

HT Imam said the opposition calls the Awami League government 'Indian agent'. "Would we then start calling them 'Pakistani agent'?" he posed a question.

The opposition has been criticising the prime minister's visit to India, as they are ignorant of benefits of the treaties signed with the neighbouring country, he added.

Wali-ur Rahman, scholar-in-residence, Bangladesh Heritage Foundation, also spoke at the inaugural session moderated by M Hamid, chief executive officer of RTV.

BERGER-STAR CAMPUS CONTEST Universities lock horns today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The university level contest of the 'Berger - Star Campus Brainstorming Business Case-Solving Competition 2010' will be held at Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) today.

Drishty, an educational and cultural organisation of the port city, is organising the competition with a view to enhancing the skills of the students in different issues of marketing and business.

Star Campus, a supplement of The Daily Star, is associating the competition. A total of 24 groups from 10 universities will take part in the competition today, said the organisers.

The final round of the competition will be held at Hotel Saint Martin's on February 23.

William Carry Academy, Cider International School, Bangladesh Women Association School and Silver Bells Girls High School are through to the final round of the school level competition, which began on February 16.

ATTEMPT TO GRAB FF'S LAND BY SIX COPS Court asks CID to submit report by April 19

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the additional inspector general of Criminal Investigation Department to submit a report by April 19 of a case filed against six police officials for attempting to murder the family members of a freedom fighter and grab their land.

The accused are Deputy Commissioner of Wari Taufiq Mahmud Chowdhury, Officer-in-Charge of Sutrapur Police Station Abdul Hanif, sub-inspectors Mohammad Kamal and Mohammad Nasir, Patrol SI Saiful Islam and Assistant SI Mohammad Kabir.

Metropolitan Magistrate Ismail Hossain

passed the order after Enayet Hossain of Swamibagh in the city's Sutrapur, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court against the policemen on Monday.

In his complaint, Enayet said Saiful with some others went to his residence around 8:15pm on November 25 last year and asked them to move out. As they refused to leave their residence, the policemen beat Enayet, his mother, sister and son mercilessly and took away valuables worth Tk2 lakh.

The accused later forced them to leave the house and put up a signboard of Gendaria Police Box.

Enayet then went to Sutrapur Police Station to file a complaint, but the OC and other high officials threatened him not to proceed with the matter.

Babar, Rezzaqul sent back to jail

STAR REPORT

A judicial magistrate court of Habiganj yesterday sent back the former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar to jail after his six-day remand was ended in the Kibria killing case.

Criminal Investigation Department did not pray for further remand, court sources said.

Besides, detained former director general of National Security Intelligence (NSI) Maj Gen (retd) Rezzaqul Haider Chowdhury was sent back to Chittagong jail yesterday after CID quizzed him face to face with Lutfozzaman Babar in a five-day remand at the CID Headquarters in Dhaka, our Chittagong correspondent reports.

In Kibria killing case, Judicial Magistrate Rajib Kumar Biswas set February 22 for hearing of a petition submitted by the defence lawyers yesterday stating that Babar had been sick

and needed to be hospitalised. However, the Public Prosecutor of Habiganj Akbar Hossain Zitu informed the court that the CID unearthed vital information from Babar about the killing of Kibria.

Former finance minister SAMS Kibria, his nephew advocate Shah Manzurul Huda, local Awami League leaders Abdur Rahim, Abul Hossain and Siddique Ali were killed in a grenade attack at a public meeting at Baidderbazar of Habiganj Sadar upazila on 27 January of 2005.

In the sensational Chittagong arms haul case, the court of Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Azizul Hoque sent back Rezzaqul to jail when he was produced before the court after the remand.

Earlier on February 13, the former NSI boss was sent to the CID Headquarters in Dhaka from Chittagong jail for interrogation.

PILKHANA CARNAGE

Govt appeals to SC to stay bail to Pintu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court (SC) for staying a High Court (HC) order that granted ad-interim bail to former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu in the Pilkhana carnage case.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday fixed February 22 for hearing the petition at the regular bench of the apex court.

The HC on Wednesday granted ad-interim bail to Pintu for three months in this case.

Call for strict rules to solve waterlogging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday stressed the need for adopting regulations for use of lands and strict enforcement mechanism to solve waterlogging problem of the city.

They said this at an academic session which was held as part of the international seminar on 'The History, Heritage and Urban Issues of Capital Dhaka' that began on February 17.

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organised the session at the conference room of Dhaka University Alumni Association to celebrate the 400 years of Dhaka as the capital city.

In a keynote paper, M Mahub Morshed, assistant professor of Geography and Environment Studies of Chittagong University, said steps should be taken to control land development in the environmentally and ecologically important areas.

Urbanisation expanded into the low-lying areas and depressions due to rapid increase of population and non-implementation of the control of use of lands suggested in the master plans and other subsequent plans, he added.

Mahub said it also grabbed the natural channels causing the disruption of the hydrologic link with the surrounding rivers and other water bodies, including channels and canals.

He suggested launching anti-encroachment drives, proper maintenance of the existing drainage system and regular cleaning of the canals to address the waterlogging problem.

Four more papers were also presented at the session, which was presided over by Prof Sarwar Jahan.

KM Nurul Huda presented a paper on 'Waste management', Mehedi Hasan on 'Population growth in Dhaka', Prof Syed Jamil Ahmed on 'Theatre in Dhaka city from mid-19th to early 21st century: The necessity of seeking 'Lines of Flight' to becoming minor' while Dr Tapati Mukhapaddhaya presented a paper on 'Unsung Heroes of Anushilon Samity Dhaka: 1936-1946'.

Inviting Nominations for:

Bangladesh Business Awards

2009

For Details Visit :

www.dhl.com.bd ; www.thedailystar.net

Nomination Deadline : February 20, 2010



MILLER
Air Conditioner Made in U.S.A.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

NORDDYNE
INTERNATIONAL

Manufacturer NORDDYNE Inc., U.S.A. representative Mr. Richard Godwin, Regional Manager, Nordyne International Inc. will be attending in the U.S. Trade Show 2010 at Sheraton Hotel, Winter Garden in MILLER booth no. 7, 8, 9 from 18-20 February to offer you a special DISCOUNT of 10% (Highest ever offered by Techno HVAC System Ltd.)

COME, VISIT & PLACE YOUR ORDER AT SHERATON

- Enjoy 10% Special Discount on our Regular Price
- Get satisfaction of buying real U.S. made products & thus save Energy

Techno HVAC System Ltd
190, Tejgaon C/A, Dhaka - 1208. Email: technofm@dhaka.net Web: www.millerac.info
Call: 9893095, 8814032, 8821235, 0171 3438 606/608/610/611/612/613/615/616/619/620/624/625/626

Be at the **BUSINESS** hub to reach **SUCCESS** straight

HAMID PLAZA
at Biruttam CR Datta Road, Banglamotor

Commercial Space Available for Bank, Office & Shop

Be at the heart of the capital and avail the highest facilities and functionalities to reach success straight.

Major Features :

- 100 metres from SAARC Fountain & Sonargaon Hotel
- Basement Car Parking
- 2 Passenger Lifts
- 24 Hrs Power Back-up & Security
- Assured Quality in Construction
- Open Commercial Space for Customized Management
- 4350 sq ft. Ready Space for Use in Each Floor



KARIGAR HOLDINGS LTD

Corporate Office:

300/5/A/1, Free School (6th Floor), Biruttam C.R. Datta Road, Dhaka-1205

Site Office:

Grand Terrace-A, 45 New Eskaton Road, Dhaka 1000, Tel: +88-02-9341657, +88-02-9358960

Cell: 01841373782, 01841980043, Fax: +88-02-9358960, Email: karigar@karigarbd.com

Web: www.karigarbd.com



Rehab Member