China to provide support in building digital Bangladesh

BSS, Dhaka

China will provide all out support for communication and socio economic development to build a digital Bangladesh.

visiting Vice Minister of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Liu Jieyi paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Jamuna here yesterday.

After the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told journalists that, apart from different issues related to trade and commerce and mutual interests of the two countries, the two leaders also discussed various

issues related to the upcoming China visit of Hasina.

The PM is scheduled to visit China on March 17, he said.

Appreciating the scheduled visit, the CPC leader said the people of his country are The assurance came while waiting to welcome the Bangladesh premier.

> Expressing his gratitude, the Chinese leader lauded the role of Hasina in further strengthening the friendly and economic relations between the two countries.

Liu also lauded Bangladesh PM's programmes for building digital Bangladesh.

During the meeting, the PM sought expertise and technical support to build digital Bangladesh and the

CPC vice minister responded positively to Hasina's call.

Hasina praised the Chinese contribution to the development of road and railway communication in Bangladesh and requested the communist party leader to continue the support.

The issue of road links between Bangladesh and China via Myanmar figured prominently during the dis-

the Father of Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Bangladesh visit of former Chinese premier Chou En Lai, they said foundation of friendship of the two countries was laid in their visits.

The CPC vice minister apprised the PM that China is keen to see the Saarc as a more strong organisation. Referring to the recent

METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

China visit of LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraful Islam, Hasina said the people to people contact between the two countries is very effective in further

strengthening the relations

between Dhaka and Beijing.

LGRD Minister Syed Recalling the China visit of Ashraful Islam, Communication Minister Syed Abul Hossain, Ambassador-atlarge M Ziauddin, PM's Office Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman and Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh ZhangXianyi were also present.



Visiting Chinese Vice Minister Liu Jieyi calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence

Jamuna in the city yesterday.

Momtaz made IOM goodwill ambassador

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) made popular folk singer Momtaz Begum MP its Migration Goodwill Ambassador in Bangladesh for two years to create mass awareness about safe migration and human trafficking.

IOM Regional Representative for South Asia Rabab Fatima and singer Momtaz Begum signed a memorandum of understanding at the National Press Club in the capital to this end yesterday.

IOM seeks to involve celebrities in promoting safe migration and that Momtaz Begum has been selected as a first step towards this goal, Rabab Fatima said.

PHOTO: STAR

"We believe that with her mass appeal, popularity and privileged access to the media, Momtaz Begum can contribute significantly to IOM's mission for safe migration," she said.

Momtaz Begum said she was extremely happy to be part of IOM's mission to ensure safe migration and protect the helpless people, especially the children and

women, from being trafficked. "I will try to do good to the people, because that is my satisfaction and the will of the creator," she said.

Ministry of Home Affairs Joint Secretary Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Joint Secretary Begum Shamsun Nahar, Prime Minister's Office Director General Dina Haque were present at the signing

Book on Tarique launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A book on senior vice president of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Tarique Rahman was launched in the city yesterday.

Party Chairperson Khaleda Zia unveiled the cover of the book titled 'Tarique Rahman: Awaiting Bangladesh' published by Ziaur Rahman Foundation at Diploma Engineers Institute.

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Prof Majedul Islam, National Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud and poet Abdul Hye Sikdar edited the book that contains about 50 articles written by a number of professionals. Farhad Halim Donar,

executive director of the foundation, gave a welcome speech while Abdul Hye conducted the programme.

A documentary on the works and contribution of Tarique was shown at the programme.

Prof Emajuddin at the function said Tarique has a dream to do something for the country and its people but efforts are going to portray him as a villain. Former vice chancellor of

Dhaka University Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury said many leaders in Asia, Africa and Latin America became immortal by their contribution to the people. Like them, Tarique has also become immortal. "Editor of this book done a

great job. They gifted an extraordinary book to the nation," he added. Terming Zia an 'architect of

the Independence', Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, former pro-VC of DU, said: "The whole country is waiting for your [Khaleda] call and return of Tarique Rahman."

Shawkat Mahmud said, "Tarique Rahman's becoming

the senior vice chairman of the party can be considered as an important event in world politics."

53

48

83

Justice Abdur Rouf and Prof Coordinator Erich Otto Gomm Majedul Islam, director of Channel 1 also spoke. were present.

Future' at a city hotel. State Minister for Forest and Environment Hasan Mahmud, FBCCI President Annisul Huq and GTZ Programme

FIRST INT'L MUSIC FESTIVAL BEGINS

Int'l Mother Language Day to help establish cultural rights

Says Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that the International Mother Language Day would be a weapon for people of all languages to establish their cultural rights. She said this inaugurating

the three-day First International Music Festival in celebration of the International Mother Language Day at Shere-Bangla Nagar field in the city.

Bangladesh Enterprise for Development and Security Studies is organising the festival with the theme 'Banglay Gaibe Bishwa'.

ensure HR

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni

yesterday said the Bangladesh

government is working to

build a society free of exploita-

tion with human rights and

fundamental freedoms pro-

tected and justice as well as

efforts to build a society where

all can fully enjoy human

rights -- civil and political,

social, economic and cultural

as well as rights to develop-

ment," she said while speak-

ing at the high-level segment

of the Human Rights Council

in Geneva, according to a

has further strengthened the

reconstituted National

Human Rights Commission.

"The Anti-Corruption

Commission and the Election

Commission are also working

independently," told the meet.

About extrajudicial killings,

development

Speakers at a seminar yester-

day stressed the need for

taking necessary steps for

adoption of more projects

under Clean Development

Mechanism (CDM) to ensure

sustainable development of

market will be one of the main

financial sources for the coun-

try's development if the gov-

ernment adopts CDM pro-

also underlined the impor-

tance of creating awareness

among the people for expand-

ing CDM removing technical

GTZ, a German-based

NGO, organised the seminar

on 'Bangladesh CDM:

Experience and Doing in

management barriers.

The development experts

International carbon

UNB, Dhaka

the country.

jects, they opined.

Call to adopt CDM

projects for sustainable

Dipu said the government

message received here.

equality secured by 2021.

UNB, Dhaka

Govt working to

Dipu tells HR Council in Geneva

management partner of this festival. Musicians from 15 coun-

tries will sing in Bangla in this festival, showing their respects to the mother tongue of the Bangalees for which the 1952 language heroes laid down their lives. Information and Cultural

Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad spoke at the opening function as special guest. The prime minister said

that all human communities in the world -- big or small -have the right to live in this world with dignity and their own cultural diversities. She said that after the UN

Antor Showbiz is the event recognition of February 21 as

the foreign minister said the

government is vigilant against

application of all extrajudicial

methods, including extrajudi-

declared 'zero tolerance' for

such practices and the govern-

ment is determined to bring to

justice anybody who is

methods," she told the HR

eradicating poverty and

attainment of universal edu-

cation as well as full empower-

ment of women to bring fun-

damental changes in the

enjoyment of human rights by

all, Dipu said more than half of

the budgetary resources are

allocated for programmes

She said Bangladesh now

designed to eradicate poverty.

focuses more on empowering

the poor, especially the vul-

nerable segments of society,

including women, children

The minister said CDM

process should be presented

before the people in an easy

and comprehensible manner

to get the maximum benefit

countries are supposed to get

fund from the United Nations

to develop clean technology

under CDM, a few developing

countries like India and China

got the lion's share from the

Hasan said about 80 per-

"Developing countries like

cent of the CDM projects

taken by the UN were imple-

Bangladesh failed to reap the

benefit from the system for

lack of proper knowledge

about the complex CDM

opportunity to develop the

CDM projects, he said, adding

that the government has

already given training to the

government officials con-

cerned for implementing the

CDM projects in the country.

Bangladesh has ample

mented in China and India.

Though the developing

from the projects.

fund, he added.

process."

and the elders.

Underscoring the need for

"Our prime minister has

cial killing.

"Bangladesh is making involved in any extrajudicial

Language Day, huge responsibilities and duties are bestowed on the people of Bangladesh to work for all languages of the world. "Now it is the responsibility

the International Mother

of ours to preserve the rights of all people of the world to speak in their own mother languages," she said. Taking this into consider-

ation, her government in its previous tenure took initiative to build International Mother Language Institute, she added. Earlier, the prime minister

unveiled the plaque of a CD and a Video CD published marking the International Mother Language Day.

BCL leader injured in clash over Jhut trade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A BCL leader and a trader were injured in a clash between two rival groups over Jhut (garment wastage) trade at West Tejtury Bazar in the city's Tejgaon area yesterday.

Mizanur Rahman, joint convener of Tejgaon thana BCL, and Sohel Rana, a local Jhut trader, were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with injuries caused by sharp weapons.

Witnesses said the clash erupted after cadres of Mizan swooped on Sohel when his workers were collecting Jhut from Alauddin and Sons Pvt Ltd, a garment factory at about 12:30pm.

Both the groups used iron rods, bamboo sticks and sharp weapons during the clash.

Some employees of the factory said Sohel used to buy Jhut from the factory, but over the last few months BCL leader Mizan and his gang took control of the Jhut business in the area. But Sohel and his group came to the factory yesterday to take away Jhut.

Later, the police brought the situation under control and took the injured to hospital while the others fled managed to escape.

Brac University launches Koha

METRO DESK

Koha, the first and most advanced Open Source Integrated Library System (ILS) in the world, was launched at Brac University Ayesha Abed Library recently, says a press release. Prof Nazrul Islam, chair-

man of the University Grants Commission, formally inaugurated the ILS (http://library.bracu.ac.bd) at a function as the chief guest. Vice Chancellor of Brac

University Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury and Pro-VC Prof Md Golam Samdani Fakir addressed the function.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Nazrul Islam praised the

initiatives of by the Brac University to establish an Integrated Library System (ILS) and train up library professionals in order to build capacities for other universi-

teristics.

Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury ranked Koha as a Shushashoner Jonney Nagorik sophisticated 21st century modern ILS because of its excellent features and charac-

TIB, BDF to organise debate contest STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF) for the first time is going to organise a shadow parliamentary anticorruption debate competition and training for high school students.

Students of class eight to class ten (new) will be able to participate in the debate competition individually or by forming a team.

Interested participants will have to submit applications within March 4. Applications should be sent to the TIB head office at house-141 (1st floor), block - E, road - 12, Banani, Dhaka - 1213, says a press release.

Emails should be sent to advocacy@ti-bangladesh.org The applicants should send

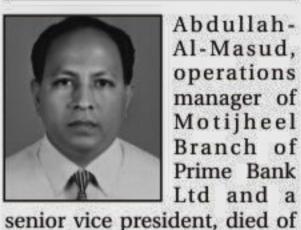
a photocopy of a recommendation letter given by the school administration or an identity card, a passport size photograph and telephone number, the press release said. 'Debate Competition'

should be written on the envelope. A memorandum of under-

standing was signed between the TIB and BDF on February 4 to arrange the debate competition and training. BDF President Dr Abdun Nur Tushar and TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman signed the MoU on behalf of their organisations.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Abdullah-Al-Masud, operations manager of Motijheel Branch of Prime Bank Ltd and a

liver cirrhosis on February 25 at the age of 45, says a press release. He left behind his wife, one

son, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

The officials and employees as well as the management of Prime Bank are deeply shocked at the sudden demise of Abdullah-Al-Masud, added

the release. Md Azizul Haque



director of Bangladesh Power Developme nt Board

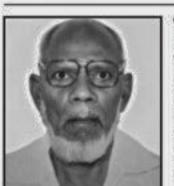
(PDB), Sylhet region, passed away at his residence in Sylhet yesterday at the age of 51, says a press release.

He had been suffering form cancer. He left behind his wife, two

sons and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Haque joined PDB as assistant director in 1986.

Death anniversary STAFF CORRESPONDENT

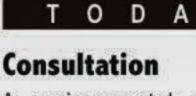


Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Reza-A-Karim Chowdhury Chunnu Miah, a

veteran of the Language Movement and freedom fighter.

On the occasion, special doa and milad mahfil will be held at his village residence at Kutuba union under Borhanuddin upazila of Bhola.

Chunnu Miah, hailing from Bhola, played an active role in different democratic movements since 1952 to the '90s.



A environmental strategy consultation of the World Bank

Convocation

Group will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 9:00am.

The 13th convocation of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) will be held. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Time: 11:30am.

Democracy Olympiad

organises a Democracy Olympiad. Venue: Prime University. Time: 11:00am.

Rony.

The anonymous callers

asked the New Age editor to stop writing as well as speaking against terrorism and violence and demanded Tk 50 lakh from him.

Sajeeb Wazed Joy, son of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning from the USA. Joy along with his wife

Joy arrives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

in Dhaka

Cristina Joy and child landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport by a Qatar Airways flight at about 7:18am. PM's Office sources said

Joy has come to attend the Digital Innovative Fair 2010 to be held between March 4 and

Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre. The fair will be organised following his concept, sources

6 at Bangabandhu Sheikh

On his arrival, personal staff of the prime minister received Joy, sources said adding that he went to PM's official residence Jamuna

directly from the airport. Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif handed over Joy's membership form to the party's Rangpur unit convener on February 25.

Death threat to New Age editor condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Press Club and 17 eminent citizens have condemned the death threat to the New Age Editor Nurul

Such threats are a blow to press freedom and democracy, Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud and General Secretary Kamal Uddin Sabuj said in a state-

ment yesterday. In another statement, 17 eminent citizens also pro-

tested the death threat.

The signatories to the statement are Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Dr Nasmin Akter, Badruddin Umar, Hasan Azizul Hague, Nasrin Akter, engineer Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah, Ahmed Kamal, Akmol Hossain, Anu Muhammad, Fahmidul Haque, Pias Karim, Rehnuma Ahmed, Zonaed Saki, Raihan Rayn, Zahid Akter, Hasan Al Zayed and Ahmed Zabed

Nurul Kabir received death threats for his journalistic works from unidentified goons on February 23 and 26.

Criminals set youth on fire in N'ganj

IOM Regional Representative Rabab Fatima and singer Momtaz Begum, who was made Migration

Goodwill Ambassador, exchange documents of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the

National Press Club in the city yesterday. Joint Secretary Begum Shamsun Nahar, extreme left, and

Director General of the Prime Minister's Office Dina Haque were present.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj A youth is fighting for his life at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after miscreants threw acid on him and set fire to his body in the district's Char Syedpur area on Saturday night.

The victim was identified as Shahjalal Antar, 27, a worker. Police has arrested his co-worker Akhter in connection with the attack. Sources said Akhter borrowed Tk 1500 from Shahjalal a few

days back. As Shahjalal was pressed Akhter for the money, the latter asked he former to come to Char Syedpur on Saturday night to

When Shahjalal went there, Akhter and his cohorts set fire to the former's body and threw acid on him.

Hearing the victim screaming, locals hurried to the spot and

SC Bar Assoc polls Mar 24, 25

receive the money.

rushed him to DMCH.

UNB, Dhaka The election of the 14-member executive committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for 2010-11 will be held

on March 24-25. SCBA secretary SM Rezaul Karim announced the schedule yesterday.

As per the schedule, the filing of nomination papers began yesterday and will continue up to March 10. Scrutiny of the nomination papers will take place on March 10 at

5:00pm and the deadline for withdrawal of candidature is March 14. Official sources said the number of eligible voters is 1971. A seven-member election sub-committee headed by advocate Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq will conduct the election. Meanwhile, lawyers belonging to BNP-Jamaat-e-Islami alliance have already nominated Khondaker Mahbub

of president and secretary respectively under the banner of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya panel. Lawyers of Awami League-led grand alliance are yet to field

Hossain and Badruddoza Badal as candidates for the posts



UNB, Dhaka

Srimongal.

Barisal

Sylhet

Cox's Bazar

country, Met Office said.

their candidates.

Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the

The sun sets in the capital at 6:02pm today and rises at 6:19am tomorrow. Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 15.1 degrees at

recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

33.8

33.2

30.5

Temperature in **Humidity** in City/Town Celsius percentage Evening Min Morning Max 19.6 Dhaka 33.4 Chittagong 29.5 19.4 87 Rajshahi 33.2 48 16.4 73 Khulna 34.5 49 20.0 87

19.4

18.7

20.0

91

60

97

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity