

Int'l community needs to work together for food security

Says finance minister

UNB, Washington Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the international community needs to work together to ensure food security for all. The food security remains a priority area for the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government that has been taking steps to ensure that, he said at a roundtable on Food Security hosted by US Secretary of Treasury Timothy Geithner in Washington on Thursday.

forum. The roundtable was followed by a press conference. Muhith was the only representative from the recipient countries who attended the press conference along with Secretary Geithner, World Bank President Robert Zoellick and US Philanthropist Bill Gates. At the press conference, Muhith stressed the need for more allocation in research and development to increase food production. To cope with the shortage of food, he said, it is important to ensure storage facilities to meet such shortage in different countries. Citing Bangladesh's experience, he said the Bangladesh government has put in place a public distribution system which has been functioning effectively. On the necessity of minimum price

for the food producers, the finance minister called for finding ways to strike a balance between ensuring a minimum price for food producers and a fair price for the consumers. Muhith is now in Washington on an official visit. As part of G-8 and G-20 initiatives to advance food security, donors have invested in the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme, a new trust fund administered by the World Bank. Initial donors to the fund include the USA, Canada, Spain, South Korea and the Gates Foundation. The donors disclosed the amount of the money they committed to the fund. The USA committed \$475 million, Canada 230 million, Spain \$95 million, South Korea \$50 million and the Gates Foundation \$30 million.



Dhaka city BNP stages a demonstration at Sabujbagh in the city yesterday demanding uninterrupted power and water supply.



Bangladesh Minority Sangram Parishad forms a human chain at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday demanding arrest of the killers of Sub-Inspector Gautam Roy.

Jeweller found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The body of a jewellery shop employee was recovered yesterday morning in the capital's Bangshal area. Criminals strangled Ganesh Chandra Dey, 50, of VK Jewellers at Tantiabazar. They wrapped the body in a sack and dumped it in a roadside drain on Lutfar Rahman Lane, said police. The victim's relatives said Ganesh went out of his Tantiabazar residence at about 9:00pm and had been missing since then. The motive behind the murder remains unknown.

10 injured in Ctg as locals, police clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg At least 10 people, including three policemen, were injured in a clash between police and locals during an open-air concert at Sea World of Concord Water Park at Foy's Lake here yesterday. Police arrested five people from the spot as they attacked the visitors coming to the venue demanding more pass cards to enjoy the concert free of cost.

STALKING OF GIRL

Student beats up teacher for giving punishment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia Yahya Khan was a member the committee. The committee decided that Gaffar would be caned and he would make apology to the girl. On Thursday afternoon, Gaffar, his elder brother Azizul and Enamul and two other accomplices attacked Yahya Khan at Habibpur field at Benipur when he was returning home after school. They beat up the teacher with iron rod, leaving him seriously injured. On receiving information, the police rescued the teacher from the spot and rushed him to Jibonnagar upazila health complex. After the incident, the school authority filed a case with the police. At night, the police raided the house of Gaffar and arrested the three. The arrestees were produced at a Chuadanga court yesterday and the court sent them to jail.

SUHRAWARDY HOSPITAL

Lift man held for trying to sexually harass nurse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT A lift man of Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital in the city was arrested on charges of attempting to sexually harass a nurse yesterday. Lift man Shah Alam tried to sexually harass the nurse inside the lift when she was going to join her duty on the second floor of the hospital at around 2:00pm, police said. As soon as the lift reached the floor, the nurse started screaming while the liftman tried to flee. But visitors and hospital staffs caught the lift man and handed him over to the police, sources said. In protest against the incident, nurses of the hospital stopped their work for a few hours. A case was filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station in this connection. Officer-in-Charge of the police station Reazuddin said the lift man confessed to his guilt during preliminary interrogation.

Abducted expat, cattle trader rescued in Meherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia The police rescued an expatriate and a cattle trader in Meherpur district on Thursday night, about 24 hours after they were abducted. Expatriate Mahirul Islam was abducted by a gang led by Jahid and Rony on Wednesday evening. The abductors also demanded Tk 5 lakh ransom from his family. On receiving information, the police raided the Notun town area after Thursday midnight and found Mahirul with his hands and legs tied at Sahid Gafur road. Mahirul, 45, returned home from Malaysia recently for the marriage ceremony of his daughter. He along with his relative Alauddin went out on Wednesday evening to buy things for the marriage scheduled for Friday. But the abductors picked up Mahirul from the bus stand area at about 7:30pm. The police, however, could not arrest any abductors. In another incident, the police rescued cattle trader Ziarul Islam, 39, from a house at village Chandpur in Meherpur sadar upazila. Police said the raided the house at about 11:00pm on Thursday and found Ziarul confined to an abandoned club. Ziarul was abducted by a gang when he was returning home after selling cows at a local market on Wednesday night. The gang also snatched Tk 1.11 lakh from him. However, the police failed to arrest the abductors.

Extortionists assault doctor in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha Extortionists assaulted a physician at Sunderganj Upazila Health Complex and ransacked its emergency unit Thursday afternoon as he denied to pay toll. Police arrested alleged leader of the gang Rafiqul Islam. Police said Rafiqul together with his accomplices demanded a good amount of money in toll from Dr Abdul Momeen. As Momeen refused to pay the money, the extortionists assaulted him and ransacked emergency unit of the hospital. On information, police rushed in and arrested Rafiqul while others managed to flee the scene. Police said Rafiqul's gang has been creating panic in the areas. He was wanted in other similar cases. A fresh extortion case was filed in this connection.



Relatives console a woman, who lost her near one in a clash between the activists of Awami League and BNP over a land dispute at Keraniganj yesterday, at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. (Story on Page 16)

WEATHER TODAY Thundershowers likely

Table with 5 columns: City/Town, Max Celsius, Min Celsius, Morning Humidity, Evening Humidity. Lists cities like Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

DHAKA TODAY

- Roundtable: Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) organises a roundtable titled 'The pros and cons of decentralising labour courts'. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Time: 3:00pm. Reception: Patua Quamrul Hassan Art School will accord a reception to Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui on his winning the Swadhinata Puraskar. Venue: Public Library seminar room. Time: 5:00pm. Seminar: Amar Odhikar Campaign organises a seminar on standard primary education for all children and necessary budget allocation. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm. Documentary: A ceremony titled 'Birangana der Kanna o Naybichar Dabi' will be launched and a photography exhibition will be held. Venue: National Museum. Time: 4:30pm. Seminar: The monthly Legal Aid organises a seminar on 'Accountability in parliamentary democracy: A Bangladesh perspective'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 9:15am. Rotary Dhaka Central: The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

BAIRA ELECTION TODAY

Vow to tap into overseas job market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The much-expected election of Baira, the apex body of the international recruiting agencies, will be held today amid candidates' promises to restore the labour markets where overseas jobs have declined in the recent years. Two panels -- Sammilita Gonotantrik Front led by Gonul Mustafa, incumbent president of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) and Sammilita Samannaya Front led by Abul Bashar, owner of Sarkar Recruiting Agency, -- will lock horns against each other. Besides, there are seven independent candidates participating in the poll, which is crucial to the recruiting agents who think a strong and learned leadership could help bring reforms in the overseas recruitment sector and help increase the outflow of labourers. The polls will be held at Baira Bhaban at 130 New Eskaton in the city. The candidates of Sammilita Gonotantrik Front also include Kazi Mohammad Mofizur Rahman, Mohammad Shamsuzzaman, Mohammad Nurul Amin, SKM Abdul Jalil, Shahadat Hossain, Mozammel Haque Bhuiyan, Syed M Saiful Haque, Golam Mainuddin, Ruhul Amin Shapan, Shameem Ahmed Chowdhury Noman, Abdul Alamin Hye, Joyal Abedin Jafar, Abul Kashem, Dr KM Sultanul Aziz, Enamul Haque, Shah Alam Rari, Omar Faruk, Mujibur Rahman Beg, Masim Ahmed, Sirajul Islam, Nasiruzzaman Khan, SMA Salam, Zakir Uddin Patwari, Redwan Khan and MM Mizanur Rahman. The candidates of Sammilita Samannaya Front include Reazul Islam, MA Sobhan Bhuiyan, Ali Haider Chowdhury, Sirajuddin Ahmed, Golam Mostafa, Mansur Ahmed Kamal, Golam Mawla, AHM Golam Kabir, MA Salam, Noman Chowdhury, Nasiruddin Majumder, Abul Barakat Bhuiyan, Mohammad Abul Bashar, AKM Nazrul Islam, Emdad Ullah, Faruk Al-Mahmud, Shahid Ullah, Mofizur Rahman Chowdhury, Khalilur Rahman, Yakub Sharafati, Mostaq Ahmed, Monirul Haque, MA Hamid, Shawkat Hossain Shikder, Tayeb Ali Sarker and Aminul Haque Bhuiyan. Sammilita Samannaya Front is focusing on restoring the labour markets in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Malaysia through stronger lobbying. On the other hand, Sammilita Gonotantrik Front is focusing on regulatory reforms, including arrangements for the agencies to carry foreign remittance abroad for promotional activities, and help the government bring back and punish the criminals who destroy Bangladesh's image abroad. "If we can eradicate the bad practices in the sector, we can automatically restore the labour markets and do good business," Sammilita Gonotantrik Front leader Ghulam Mustafa told The Daily Star. Meanwhile, at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity last Thursday, Sammilita Samannaya Front leader Abul Bashar said their panel has some dynamic leaders who have experiences in businesses with Malaysia and Saudi Arabia and can play a significant role in restoring these markets. Bangladesh's overseas jobs declined to 4.75 lakh last year from 8.75 lakh in 2008 mainly because of decline in these markets.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur Md Tozammel Hossain Toja, a language movement veteran, died at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in Dhaka on Thursday night at the age of 81. He left behind a son and two daughters and a host and relatives and admirers to mourn his death. He was buried at Faridpur graveyard in Dinajpur with state honour. Born on January 3, 1929 at Munsipara village in Dinajpur, Tozammel played a key role in the language movement in 1952. He was also jailed for his involvement in the movement. Amzad Hossain Khan METRO DESK Amzad Hossain Khan, a retired administrative officer of Gopalganj Deputy Commissioner's office, breathed his last at Faridpur Diabetic Hospital yesterday, says a press release. He was jailed in 1971 for organising the collectorate employees in favour of the Liberation War. He left behind his widow, five sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.



The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports takes out a procession from Mukhtangan in the city yesterday in protest against leasing of oil and gas fields to multinational companies.