

Hasina greets Cameron

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday greeted her new British counterpart David Cameron expecting the historic and warm ties between the two countries to strengthen further during his tenure.

"Bangladesh and the United Kingdom have long historic bonds of friendship which, I believe, will be further expanded in the days ahead during your term as the Prime Minister of your country," she said in a statement.

Hasina pointed out that both the countries were ardent supporter of democracy.

She also expected expanded Dhaka-London cooperation in the fields of politics, economic, trade and investment, cultural, and social development.

Khaleda discusses May 19 rally with party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia held a meeting with the party's joint secretaries general and organising secretaries at her Gulshan office in the city last night.

They discussed the preparations for the May 19 grand rally in Dhaka and other organisational affairs, party leaders said without elaborating.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Dhaka University push over an iron gate of the Birdem Hospital in the city during a clash with the hospital employees yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

Make Dhaka rally a success

Delwar asks party men

BSS, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Khondker Delwar Hossain asked the party leaders and workers to take all necessary steps to make Dhaka divisional rally of the party a big success.

The rally will be held on May 19. He made the call at a press briefing at the party's central office at Naya Paltan in the city after a meeting of the party's associate organisations yesterday.

Presided over by Delwar, the meeting drew up programmes to observe the 29th death anniversary of the party's founder late president Ziaur Rahman.

Delwar said BNP would hold a 10-day programme on the occasion from May 29 to June 7.

A discussion on the life and works of Ziaur Rahman will be held on May 29.

On May 30, the national flag will be hoisted at half-mast at 6:00am at the party's central office along with a black flag.

BNP chairperson and leader of the opposition in parliament Khaleda Zia and party central leaders will place wreaths at his mazar in the city and offer prayers at 10:00am on the day.

A three-day photo exhibition will also be held at the Jatiya Press Club on the occasion.

BNP leaders Aftab Hossain Chowdhury, Begum Selima Rahman, Razia Foyez, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Maj Gen (retd) Ruhul Alam Chowdhury, Amanullah Aman, Salahuddin Ahmed and Ruhul Kabir Rizvi attended the meeting.

Only 0.58 skilled health worker for 1000 people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health sector of the country is suffering from an acute shortage of manpower, which has only 0.58 skilled health workers for every 1,000 people, speakers said at a seminar in the city yesterday.

According to the World Health Organization guidelines, there should have 2.5 skilled health workers for per 1,000 people, they said calling upon the private sector to come forward to make health workers to meet the growing demand.

RTM International and Katalyst jointly organised the dissemination seminar on 'private sector health'.

Prof Shah Monir, director general of Directorate General of Health Service (DGHS), encouraged the private sector to establish institutes to provide quality health education.

Officials of the health and family welfare ministry, development partners, NGO professionals and public health experts attended the seminar.

Ahmed Al Kabir, president of RTM International, highlighted the objectives of the seminar. He said the health sector is suffering from shortage of nurses, health technologists and paramedics.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 23rd death anniversary of former chief superintendent of the High Court M Akram Ali, Bangladesh Television, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and a milad and doa mahfil will be held at New Colony Jame Mosque, Asad Gate, Lalmatia, Dhaka after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

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Jewellery shop robbery: 5 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday arrested five people on charges of robbery at two jewellery shops at the Muktijuddha Super Market at Mirpur in the city.

A gang of burglars took away 782 tolas of gold from Dewan Jewellery on April 25 and another gang of robbers looted 267 tolas of gold from New Sananda Jewellers on March 3.

The detectives arrested Abbas Ali alias Kiron with over 20 tolas of stolen gold from his house at Kaliakoir of Gazipur for his involvement in the burglary at Dewan Jewellers.

Four others -- Yakub Mal, Kalam, Babul and Rafique who are involved in the robbery at New Sananda Jewellers -- were arrested from different parts in the capital and Gazipur. An auto-rickshaw they used for the robbery was also seized, said Assistant commissioner (AC) Mohammad Solaiman of DB said.

At the DB office in the city yesterday, Abbas admitted to reporters that they first broke

open the locks of Jyoti Cosmetics and Imitation Jewellers and made a hole into the common wall to enter Dewan Jewellery on the ground floor of the market.

Earlier, the police recovered 194 tolas of gold, stolen from Dewan Jewellery, at Jatrabari in the city on April 25 and arrested two alleged burglars -- Amir and Alam -- on May 4.

On March 9, five youths entered the New Sananda Jewellery posing as customers, pointed firearms at the lone employee present at the time and made off with over 250 tolas of gold ornaments.

AC Solaiman said, "Eight burglars committed the burglary at Dewan Jewellery using masonry tools to create a hole in the wall."

They arrested three burglars so far, he said and blamed the lax security system of the market for the robberies.

He said the security guard of the market is hearing impaired. So, he could not hear the burglars making a hole through the wall.

Attack on doctor protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 200 doctors staged a sit-in at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city for two hours yesterday protesting the attack on Dr AKM Rafiquddin by unknown criminals.

Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Bangladesh Society of Medicine (BSM), Association of Physicians of Bangladesh (APB) and Dhaka Medical College Teachers' Association jointly organised the protest.

The criminals abducted Dr Rafiquddin from his Dhanmondi chamber on May 9, took him to Dhaka University area and beat him up before releasing him the same day. They also demanded Tk 10 lakh from him.

This incident is a threat to doctors' community, said Dr Abdur Rauf Sardar, vice-chairman of BMA.

The criminals filed a false case only to protect themselves, said Prof Dr Kazi Din Mohammad, principal of Dhaka Medical College.

The demonstrators said that if no action is taken against the criminals by May 22, they would form a human chain at Shahbagh on May 23 and the chambers of all specialist doctors in the city will remain closed on May 24.

Climate Change: EU to sign accord with 3 countries

UNB, Dhaka

The European Union is likely to sign an agreement with Bangladesh, Cambodia and the Maldives to assist the three countries to combat the adverse impact of the climate change.

The agreement is expected to be signed at the two-day regional conference of the Global Climate Change Alliance to be held in Dhaka on May 30-31 in collaboration with the European Union, officials said.

Nine countries of Asia - Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Laos, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Yemen - will participate in the conference.

In 2007, the European Commission formed the Global Climate Change Alliance to assist the countries most vulnerable to the climate change.

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