

DIPU MONI LEAVES FOR TAJIKISTAN

OIC FMs' meet begins today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign ministers of Islamic countries will converge in Dushanbe, the capital city of Tajikistan, for a three-day conference beginning today aiming to take steps towards solution of problems in the Islamic states.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni left here for Dushanbe on Sunday night to attend the 37th Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Foreign Ministers Conference, which is also being held to further consolidate unity and solidarity in the Muslim world.

On the sidelines, the foreign minister is expected to hold bilateral discussion with her counterparts of the participating countries. She is also expected to discuss regional and international issues during the meeting.

It is expected that the decisions to be adopted by participants in the OIC meeting would lead to the further development of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

Foreign ministry officials said the conference has a specific significance in the current scenario and it is expected that the foreign ministers of the Islamic states would exchange their comprehensive strategies regarding their foreign policies in the meeting.

It is also expected that progress would be made in connection with the internal and external problems faced by the Islamic countries.

The organisation with 57 member Muslim states is one of the biggest international organisations, divided into Arab, Asian and African countries.

From Tajikistan, Dipu Moni will proceed towards Russia to begin a two-day bilateral visit on May 20-21 when Bangladesh will

sign a framework agreement with Russia on setting up nuclear power plant and peaceful usage of nuclear energy.

During her visit in Moscow, she will hold separate meetings with the director of the Institute of Oriental studies of the Russian Academy of Science and Foreign Minister of Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov.

She will also be present at the signing ceremony of the framework agreement between Bangladesh and Russian Federation on cooperation in the field of peaceful usage of atomic energy.

From Bangladesh side, State Minister for Science and ICT Yeafesh Osman is expected to sign the agreement.

Foreign ministry sources said issues such as cooperation in defence, trade, education and cultural sectors will come up for discussion during Dipu Moni's meeting with Sergey Lavrov.

Developer shot by extortionists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists shot and injured a developer at Dayaganj in the city yesterday as he refused to pay toll.

Abu Asadullah, 40, chairman of Rock Shelter Developer Ltd. At Dayaganj, came under attack when he was returning to his Motijheel office from a construction site at Jurain in a rickshaw at about 3:45pm.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with two bullet wounds in his both legs.

Director Monir Hossain of the company, who was travelling with Asadullah in the rickshaw,

said three extortionists on a motorbike intercepted the rickshaw and fired at Asadullah's legs before leaving the scene.

About two months ago, extortionists identifying themselves as cohorts of Dakat Sahid called Asadullah and demanded Tk 50 lakh from him, but he refused to pay, Monir said.

On Sunday, the extortionists again demanded Tk 10 lakh and warned him of dire consequences in case of non-payment, he added.

Officer-in-charge Nazrul Islam of Sutrapur said he heard of the incident, but Asadullah did not inform the police of such a threat.

Programme on 'Enriching schools under EIS' today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Daily Star and Robi, a mobile phone operator, will jointly hold a programme titled 'Enriching schools under EIS programme with new resources' at Khulna Zila School at 9:30am today.

Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Talukder Abdul Khaleque will attend the programme as the chief guest.

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam and Managing Director and CEO of Robi Micheal Kuehenar will be present as special guests.

English in School (EIS) is a joint programme initiated by Robi & The Daily Star, aiming at enhancing English learning skills among the secondary school students across the country.

SAFE WATER, SANITATION

Tk 105cr IDB loan for coastal areas

BSS, Dhaka

Islamic Development Bank (IDB) has approved Tk 105 crore for potable water supply and safe sanitation for underprivileged people of the coastal areas of Bangladesh.

The loan financing is free of interest charges and will carry only a service fee for meeting cost for project supervision, implementation and administration, an IDB press release said yesterday.

This is the 3rd phase of the programme and the previous two programmes have

been successfully implemented in cooperation with all the stakeholders and Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) under aegis of the Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives.

The project will contribute to addressing the most severe and debilitating threats to health in the project area including child mortality, maternal health and diseases by providing access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

The main objective of the project is to promote sustainable and healthy envi-

ronmental conditions by reducing water related diseases and post cyclone environmental hazards.

The project purpose is to provide supply of safe water and sanitation to the people of cyclone-prone coastal areas and also to support long term cyclone readiness facility for water supply and sanitation.

About nine lakh people will directly benefit from receiving, on a sustainable basis, basic water supply and sanitation facilities. The project will increase, at least, the number of water points by 8,700 and low cost latrines by 7,000.

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