



A passenger bus turns upside down in front of Roads and Highway Bhaban yesterday after hitting a road island as the driver lost control of the vehicle. Such reckless driving is a common practice in the city. PHOTO: STAR

7TH WORLD ISLAMIC ECONOMIC FORUM IN KAZAKHSTAN IN 2011 Green bank proposed at WIEF

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Five specific proposals, including holding an economic summit for Muslim countries and curbing threat of climate change, were made at the two-day 6th World Islamic Economic Forum (WIEF) in Kuala Lumpur.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who made a three-day official visit to Malaysia, attended the WIEF and urged the Muslim countries to share their resources, technologies and market opportunities to build synergies to have a multiplier effect on their efforts.

She also proposed forming a taskforce to face the challenges of the global climate change.

The first proposal involved holding an 'economic summit' to focus on practical ways in which the Muslim countries could enhance their own economic growth and development.

"The summit will also explore how Islamic banking and finance can contribute to a more sustainable international financial system," said Tan Sri Ahmad Fuzi Abdul Razak, general secretary of the WIEF Foundation, at a media briefing at the conclusion of the forum yesterday.

According to news reports available on the Internet, the WIEF decided that it would evaluate the second proposal on 'clean energy development bank' before its implementation.

The threat of climate change to nations and the business opportunities in clean energy-related industries will be recognised and the WIEF will advance this important proposal.

The third proposal, on the setting up of a 'social entrepreneurship foundation', would involve evaluating models of private sector-led social entrepreneurship, focusing on the special funding needs of small and medium enterprises and other enter-

prises throughout the Muslim countries.

On the fourth proposal to set up creativity and innovation incubation centres, the WIEF would craft a pilot plan in collaboration with academic leaders and institutions.

On 'youth corps' proposal, the forum would initiate a pilot test to develop practical plans to harness the vibrancy of the youths and prepare them for leadership role in future.

The WIEF Foundation general secretary announced that all the five proposals would be implemented soon.

Officials said this year's forum was held against the backdrop of a world emerging from a financial crisis. All investors and entrepreneurs met informally through the WIEF's 'Business Matchmaking Lounge' and five commercial agreements were signed.

It was announced that the 7th WIEF will be hosted by Kazakhstan in 2011.

Free education for all in phases: Nahid

Islamic university soon to run madrasa education

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday the government would make the country's education free for all in phases.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave a directive for making education free for all and we will implement the goal in phases," he told reporters at his office.

Nahid said it is not possible to make education free overnight as the process involves time and huge investment.

"We need to do this from class six. So, it is a huge task and the nation has not such financial ability."

The minister said they are giving stipends to female students at secondary and higher secondary levels and also waiver their tuition fees.

The government is planning to make education free for all at public institutions ranging from schools to universities and to form a trust fund to provide stipends to

meritorious and deserving students at all levels.

Planning ministry is now set to hold a meeting with Planning Minister AK Khandaker in the chair to chalk out how education can be made free soon.

Nahid further said that the government would set up an Islamic University (Affiliating) to oversee the entire activities of madrasa education.

"In view of the long-standing demand, the issue of setting up an Islamic University (Affiliating) has been recommended in the draft National Education Policy."

Without elaborating further, he said the university would act like National University.

The draft education policy proposed turning the madrasa board into an affiliating university which will take the responsibilities of this sector.

The entire monitoring responsibilities, including approving syllabus and textbooks of Fazil and Kamil level, monitoring educa-

tional institutions and conducting examinations of madrasa education, now lie with Islamic University in Kushtia.

The policy said since it is tough for a regular university to carry out the massive task the madrasa board can be turned into an Islamic University (Affiliating) and the duties of the board can be given to the university.

Asked about Quami madrasa, Nahid said they would incorporate some subjects in the madrasa education in order to make madrasa education modern and timely.

Regarding monthly pay orders (MPOs), he said allocation for MPOs has to be increased as the recent allocation is found inadequate.

He further said that they have sent proposals to the finance ministry requesting more allocation in the education sector.

About admission to different colleges, Nahid said they would hold a meeting with the heads of the reputed colleges in and outside the capital soon.

Bangladesh a model for women empowerment: Filipino envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh can be a global model for women empowerment as its women administrators prove to lead the country competently, outgoing Philippines Ambassador Zenaída Tacorda Radago said yesterday.

"Bangladesh is an example that women can be good administrators," the ambassador made the remarks while paying a farewell call on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, Zenaída mentioned that holding the top level posts of the government, particularly the positions of prime

minister, foreign minister, home minister and agriculture ministers, the women are competently running the country.

She highly appreciated the active role of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who took initiatives in solving the problems of global climate change. "The PM is playing crucial role in solving the problems of climate change all over the world."

Zillur emphasised increasing the trade and commerce between Bangladesh and the Philippines with a view to further strengthening bilateral relations. "The entrepreneurs of the Philippines can increase the investment here in the country," he said.

The president through the Ambassador has conveyed his greetings to his counterpart.

The outgoing Ambassador apprised the president of the Philippines' trade and investments are going up in Bangladesh and two big projects remain already under consideration of the Board of Investment.

Describing many aspects especially natural disasters, democracy and curbing terrorism, the two countries are possessing common view, Zenaída said the bilateral relations should be strengthened.

Secretaries concerned of the president's office were present during the meeting.

Floating body of Jubo Dal leader recovered from Buriganga

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

The floating body of a local Jubo Dal leader was recovered from the river Buriganga yesterday, a day after he fell down from a launch at Sadarghat.

Police said they found the body of an unidentified man floating in the water near Jinjira and later his relatives identified him.

Injury marks were found in his head but they could not ascertain the cause of the wounds, they added.

Munshiganj district BNP President Abdul Hai claimed that the deceased Akbar Hossain was the organising secretary of Poursava Jubo Dal unit and he died after he had jumped down from a launch when the ruling party cadres made an attack on BNP men on their way to join the grand rally at Paltan on Wednesday.

However, district Awami League Publicity Secretary Kamal Uddin denied the allegation and said Akhbar fell down during a scuffle over food distribution among the BNP men and he died after being hit with a boat.

He also claimed that Akhbar did not go to Sadarghat for joining the rally. He went there for a different purpose.

BNP leader Abdul Hai said several hundred ruling party cadres swooped on the BNP men when their launch anchored at Sadarghat terminal in the afternoon.

"Several BNP men had jumped into the river to save their lives. Many of them swam ashore, but Akhbar's body was found floating."

5-yr police plan to address sexual harassment, stalking

Says NBK Tripura

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The five-year plan of police will address the issues of sexual harassment and stalking considerably, said Additional IGP NBK Tripura at a programme yesterday.

A number of steps are also being taken by the government to stop such misconduct, he added.

The additional IGP said this at 'Sensitisation workshop with police officials on gender equality and sexual harassment of women at workplace' at Biam auditorium in the city.

Alliance for Women Workers Rights (AWWR) in association with ILO Country office for Bangladesh organised the workshop.

"Training will also be provided on sensitisation of women police regarding sexual harassment at work," Tripura said, urging all policemen and women to lend a hand to stop sexual harassment at workplace.

Development cannot be achieved without ensuring gender parity in a country, and awareness building to stop sexual harassment is

crucial for empowerment of women, said Gagan Rajbhandari, director, a.i., International Labour Organisation, Dhaka.

AWWR placed a set of recommendations to combat sexual harassment at workplace, including massive awareness among policy makers, law enforcement agencies and employers.

Ward-based community policing could be a protective measure. Again there must be a code of conduct in every organisation or institution along with a gender-friendly working atmosphere.

The recommendations also included that ratio of men and women is also required in an organisation and moral lesson against any sort of sexual harassment can be included in academic curriculum.

Strict implementation of law in required and dilly-dallying of legal procedures must be stopped to help victims.

Ishrat Sharmin, chairman of AWWR, Taleya Rahman, vice-chairperson, and Quazi Baby, treasurer, also spoke.

Transboundary efforts needed to promote Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian High Commissioner Rajat Mitter yesterday stressed the need for transboundary effort to put the Sundarbans, world's largest mangrove forest, in the list of seven natural wonders on this planet.

At a meeting with State Minister for Environment and Forests Hasan Mahmud at his office, the envoy said both the governments should take effective steps to promote the Sundarbans and call for more votes from general people.

As 60 per cent land mass of the Sundarbans belongs to Bangladesh and the remaining 40 per cent to India, joint effort is needed to gather the 100 to 150 million more votes required to elect it as a natural wonder, both parties agreed.

Mahmud requested Mitter to take initiatives so that more Indian citizens visit Bangladesh.

The Indian envoy told the minister that visa process for Bangladeshis travelling to India would be made easier.

Other bilateral issues such as using the Chittagong Port for trading activities of seven Indian states and Indian help to improve the infrastructure of the port were also discussed.

Need to make regional communications more effective and fast implementation of bilateral initiatives were also stressed.

Concern over issuing of fatwa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday expressed deep concern over issuing of fatwa (religious edict) against a housewife for talking to a male stranger at Charmonai in Barisal.

Following the fatwa issued at a village arbitration, the housewife was whipped 50 times and the male stranger 80 times on May 15.

In a statement yesterday, Mahila Parishad acting president Dr Fowzia Moslem and general secretary Maleka Banu demanded punishment to those responsible for issuing fatwa.

They also called for ensuring security of the victim and her family.

The women leaders also urged the government to take necessary steps to stop issuing of illegal fatwa.



Rotary Club of Dhaka Midtown in association with UNFPA Bangladesh organised a programme at the National Press Club recently to mark the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day. UNFPA country Representative Arthur Erken and District Rotary Governor AKM Shamsul Huda were present as the chief and special guests respectively. PHOTO: COURTESY

2001 POLL VIOLENCE Judicial probe body to visit Bhola from May 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The judicial enquiry commission will be visiting Bhola for four days from May 23 to probe the incidents of violence that occurred after the parliamentary elections in 2001 in the region.

The three-member commission will visit Bhola town, Lalmojon, Tajumuddin and Borhanuddin during the period, says a government handout.

Former district and sessions judge Muhammad Sahabuddin is the president of the commission while other members are Monwar Hossain Akhand, deputy secretary at home ministry and additional DIG of police Meer Shahidul Islam.

The commission will hold a view exchange meeting with local politicians, human rights and social activists, journalists and media personalities at Bhola circuit

house at 10:00 on the first day.

Deposition of the victims of Bhola town, Doulatkhan, Char Fashion and Monpura will be taken on the same day.

The commission members will also visit affected areas at Lord Hardinge, Annoda Prasad, and Fatehabad in Lalmojon the next day when the commission will also record deposition of the victims.

The commission will visit Borhanuddin on May 25 and return to the capital the next day.

The commission also visited Pabna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Bagherhat, Gopalganj, Rajshahi, and Sirajganj from April 6 to April 23 to know about the post electoral violence in the areas.

The government formed the commission on December 27 last year following a Supreme Court directive and later extended its tenure till September this year.

CORRUPTION Court decision on case against Prof Jahanara on June 25

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will give decision on June 25 whether the charge of a corruption case against Prof Jahanara Begum, former adviser to the primary and mass education ministry, would be framed or not.

Judge Nasiruddin Mahmud of the Special Judges Court-5 yesterday fixed the fresh date as he could not prepare the order of the charge hearing.

Earlier, the prosecution had completed arguments for framing charge against the accused while the defence made submission for discharging her from the case.

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1. POSITION: MANAGER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Job Summary: The Manager of Human Resources is responsible for managing all aspects of the H.R. function including, but not limited to

- Development of HRM policies and procedures, guidelines defining group policies on employee recruitment, selection, compensation benefits, training & development, termination, grievances, performance appraisal, etc.
- Competent in the latest developments in HR matters and to develop IT based systems to ensure better in-house ability to manage personnel issues.
- Provide standards, advice and guidance to line managers to enable them to conduct and complete annual performance appraisals (Job assessment) of employees within the set time frame.
- Maintain personal files of all employees
- Recruitment and retention
- Employee relations
- Wage Board and Labour Law compliance
- Compensation
- Performance management & recognition
- Employee benefits
- Training and professional development
- Employee counseling and department budget preparation

Requirements
Knowledge and Skills

- Must have proven successful interpersonal skills to maintain effective and satisfactory working relationships with staff at all levels, vendors, clients and visitors. Minimum of 5 years experience in H.R. management with progressively increased responsibility.
- Ability to approach complex and sensitive issues in a pragmatic way
- Excellent critical thinking and analytical skills
- Strong recruiting background
- Ability to apply sound employee management practices: coach/advise managers through difficult, complex, potentially litigious situations.
- Advanced computer skills; excellent writing skills.
- Excellent interpersonal communication in English/Bengali a plus.

Education

- Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management or related field.
- Advanced degree in Human Resources Management or related field a plus.

2. POSITION: EXECUTIVE- ADVERTISING SALES & MARKETING

Job Summary: The Marketing Executive is responsible for business development and advertising sales including, but not limited to

- Identify market and achieve sales target to ensure profitability of the organisation.
- Identify new clients and extend personalized service to them.
- Forecast future sales through analysis or previous data and other market/sales information.

Requirements
Knowledge and Skills

- Must have proven successful interpersonal skills to maintain effective and satisfactory working relationships with clients and advertisers. Minimum of 3 years experience in marketing management with progressively increased responsibility.
- Excellent critical thinking and analytical skills
- At least 2 years of Strong sales/marketing/advertising management background
- Advanced computer skills; excellent writing skills.
- Excellent interpersonal communication in English/Bengali with strong sense of responsibilities.
- Self motivated and able to work under pressure in a fast paced environment.
- Fluency in Microsoft office skills including strong excel spreadsheet forecasting techniques, and fluid PowerPoint presentation skills.

Education

- Masters degree in Business Administration with major in marketing or M.Com from a reputed national or international university.

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