



Scientist Prof Maqsood Alam speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Scientists share their experience of decoding the jute genome at the press conference. (Story on Page 16)

Invest in energy sector

President urges Britain

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman, now on a medical checkup in London, has sought more British investment in Bangladesh's energy sector and help to assist the country's stride for fast track economic development.

The president made the remark when Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, a cabinet minister and chairman of the ruling Conservative Party, paid a courtesy call on him at Bupa Cromwell Hospital yesterday, according to a message received here.

Zillur also requested the British government to increase various facilities for expatriate Bangladeshis living in Britain.

Baroness Warsi enquired about the president's health, and on behalf of Prime Minister David Cameron, she wished him good health and well-being.

The conservative party chairman also

handed over a message of Queen Elizabeth who wished early recovery of the president.

She lauded the process of democratisation of Bangladesh and cited Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as an inspirational role model.

Zillur requested Baroness Warsi to visit Bangladesh and she gladly accepted the invitation.

Zillur expressed the hope that the excellent relations between Bangladesh and the UK would continue to grow in the years to come.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to UK Dr M Syeedur Rahman Khan and officials of the president were present during the meeting.

Zillur, who arrived in London on June 20, was admitted to the hospital the following day for medical checkup.

Prime minister's younger sister Sheikh Rehana and representatives of different socio-political organisations based in the UK visited the president at the hospital.

Steps taken to strengthen democracy

FM tells friendship group in France

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni yesterday said that the government has taken up various measures to strengthen democratic institutions aiming to continue multi-party process in Bangladesh.

She said the government also laid emphasis on development of human rights, women's empowerment, child education and poverty eradication.

The foreign minister, who is now on a visit to France, was exchanging views with the leaders of French Bangladesh Friendship Group at French National Assembly yesterday, says a foreign ministry press release.

Dipu Moni along with her delegation members arrived in Paris on Sunday on her first bilateral visit to France on June 20-23.

She briefed French Bangladesh Friendship Group President Paul Giacobbi about various initiatives taken by the government and different facade of the present government.

Dipu Moni gave the French parliamentary group

a vivid picture of economic progress and the present trend of growth. She indicated the expansion of Bangladesh's export to France, which for the first time crossed the billion-dollar mark in the last financial year and continues to increase.

The FM during her meeting illustrated different incentives and opportunities offered by the government and the country through its authorities and instruments and requested the French Bangladesh Friendship Group to influence the government of France and the private sectors to accumulate more investment in Bangladesh.

The French Bangladesh Friendship Group expressed its satisfaction at the level of business and trade existing between the two countries. The group assured Dipu Moni of its continuous support and cooperation on bilateral political relation and economic development of Bangladesh.

The president of the friendship group Paul Giacobbi told Dipu Moni that officials of the group will visit Bangladesh in November to explore further scope of cooperation between France and Bangladesh.

Japanese support for Nat'l Museum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan donated audiovisual equipment worth Tk 5 crore to Bangladesh National Museum yesterday.

Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh Tamotsu Shinotsuka handed over the equipment to Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad in a function at the National Museum auditorium in the morning.

"We are committed to build digital Bangladesh and seek your cooperation to attain the goal," Azad said.

He said National Museum is the heart of education, culture and research of a country and the museum should be kept above politics.

National Museum and Cultural Affairs ministry organised the function.

Tamotsu Shinotsuka said installation of the equipment would help National Museum to promote cultural activities and thereby achieve economic development.

The equipment donated to Bangladesh include lights and sound equipment, electronics equipment, two movie cameras, multimedia projector system and video editing system for documentation section and auditorium of the museum.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Advocate Promode Mankin, chairman of Bangladesh National Museum board of trustees M Azizur Rahman, director general of Bangladesh National Museum Prokash Chandra Das and National Museum keeper Jahangir Hossain also spoke at the function.

Realise over Tk 8.70cr from 212 university teachers

JS body recommends

UNB, Sangsad Bhaban

The parliamentary standing committee on public accounts yesterday recommended realisation of Tk 8,70,63,086 crore from 212 public university teachers who have failed to return from abroad at the end of their education leave periods.

The standing committee at a meeting with its chairman Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir in the chair elaborately discussed the issue-based audit reports for fiscals 1994 to 2004 on the unapproved absence of the public university teachers abroad, said a press release.

It also discussed objections to the audit by the department of internal resources for the 1998-99 fiscal, the post and telecommunications audit department, the defence department and railway audit department, as well as foreign aided projects spanning the period 1990 to 2000.

In the audit objections report, it was shown that financial losses had been incurred due to the over Tk 8 crore in salaries being unrealised

as well as the allowances and other expenses of the 212 teachers of eight public universities.

It recommended disposing of the audit objections within the specified time after submitting evidence of realised money to the audit.

The meeting asked the authorities concerned to realise revenue loss of Tk 101, 58,72,160 due for excised duty, supplementary duty, VAT and fines from departments concerned, realise revenue of Tk 7,93,40,562 due from supplementary duty and VAT on products like motor spirit, light and diesel and realise Tk 30,18,240 loss due to unload items with less fee than approved fee.

The meeting also asked for realisation of over Tk 3.60 crore in revenue losses caused by other types of irregularities.

Standing committee members M Ali Ashraf and Chief Whip Abdus Shahid attended the meeting.

Education Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman, vice-chancellors of the public universities and senior officials of NBR were present at the meeting.

Dhaka to get US health aid

METRO DESK

The US has selected Bangladesh as one of the eight 'Global Health Initiative (GHI) Plus' countries.

As part of this global initiative, the US is investing \$63 billion over six years to help partner countries improve health outcomes through strengthened health systems - with a particular focus on improving the health of women, newborns and children by providing quality health services and combating infectious diseases.

The other seven countries are Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, and Rwanda.

As a GHI plus country, Bangladesh will receive additional technical and management resources to quickly implement GHI's approach, including programmes and investments in HIV/AIDS prevention, malaria, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, nutrition, family planning and reproductive health.

A joint press release by the US Department of State, US Agency for International Development (USAID) and US Department of Health and Human Services released this information.

In Bangladesh, the US government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Department of Defense (DoD) will work with the government of Bangladesh and will assist NGOs and private sector to address critical health problems and provide support to achieve the national Millennium Development Goals.

HR COMMISSION Govt hailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and the Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights (BIHR) yesterday hailed the government for constituting the fully fledged National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and greeted its newly appointed chairman and members.

In a press release, the MJF hoped that the commission will play an active role in protecting human rights and establish itself as an effective commission.

In another statement, the BIHR said the commission would work independently to check human rights violations in the country.

President's Parade held at BMA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The passing out ceremony of 100 cadets was held at the Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA) at Bhatiary in Chittagong yesterday.

Of them, 84 cadets, including 17 female cadets, were from 62nd BMA long course and 16 cadets, including one female cadet, were from 33rd BMA Special Course.

The President's Parade was held at the academy on the occasion, said an ISPR release.

Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Mubeen reviewed the parade and took salute as the chief guest.

He also distributed awards among the cadets who demonstrated outstanding performance during the training.

Addressing the function, the army chief urged the cadets to work with honesty and efficiently to uphold the image of the army and for the interest of the nation.

Company Senior Under Officer Imran Khan was awarded the 'Sword of Honour'. He also received the 'Chief of Army Staffs (CAS) Gold Medal' for his outstanding performance in military subjects.



Hundreds of people form a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding exemplary punishment to the people responsible for the death of a couple in a road accident in the city. Family members and colleagues of victim SM Saiful Huda Shahin, a sales executive of the Structural Engineering Ltd, organised the programme. (Story on Page 3)

PHOTO: STAR

SAMSUNG

TURN ON TOMORROW

Maximize the World Cup experience with Samsung LED and LCD TV from Transcom Digital

Brand new 2010 Full HD line-up

Guaranteed cash hyper and confirmed gift like LED TV, Mobile Phone, T-Shirt or Mug through Scratch Card*

SERIES 5 Full HD 1080p

C530

32" at BDT 75,000/-
40" at BDT 105,000/-

Full HD 1080p
2010 Hyper-Real Engine (18 bit) with WCE 2
60,000:1 Dynamic Contrast Ratio
USB 2.0 with wide range of file format support
Elegant and clean design
Picture-in-picture
Dolby Surround Sound
Swivel Stand
Touch Panel Controls

SERIES 6 100Hz Motion Plus Full HD 1080p

C6900

40" at BDT 220,000/-
46" at BDT 315,000/-

100Hz Motion Plus at Full HD 1080p
2010 Hyper-Real Engine (18 bit) with WCE Pro
400 FPS Clear Motion Rate Technology using new Valencia Chip
Dolby Digital Plus / SRS TruSurround HD
USB 2.0 with wide range of file format support
Razor Slim Clean Crystal Design
Picture-in-picture

SERIES 8 200Hz Motion Plus Full HD 1080p

C8000

30" Coming Soon
40" Advance Booking Available

3D 200Hz Motion Plus at Full HD 1080p
2010 3D Hyper-Real Engine (18 bit) with WCE Pro
Clear Motion Rate Technology using new Valencia Chip
Dolby Digital Plus / SRS TruSurround HD
USB 2.0 with wide range of file format support
Razor Slim Clean Crystal Design
2GB Embedded Memory

Now available at:

TRANSCOM

think electronics... think DIGITAL

For more information: 8855366-8, 01712 665463

- 2 Years Panel + 5 Years Service Warranty
- Free Professional Installation (worth Tk. 10,000)
- Complimentary Club Digital Membership

Take home a Samsung LED/LCD TV through Standard Chartered InstaBuy or BRAC Bank PayFlex scheme. (Installation payment available at 0% interest)

Paper: Rhymer/Transcom/10