



PHOTO: PID

EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Stefan Frowein pays a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.

STEFAN FROWEIN CALLS ON HASINA

EU happy with human rights situation

UNB, Dhaka

The European Union (EU) is happy over the current human rights and political situation prevailing in the country.

EU Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Stefan Frowein revealed this when he paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday morning.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said the EU envoy praised the "wise and prudent" leadership of Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina.

The PM and the EU envoy observed that Bangladesh and the EU member countries enjoy excellent bilateral relations in every sector of development.

The EU envoy expressed a keen interest to help Bangladesh in the fields of vocational and technical education.

In this regard, Stefan Frowein hailed the government's Vision 2021 programme to turn Bangladesh into a modern country.

The PM thanked the European countries for their support and assistance in holding the country's December 29, 2008 general election in a free, fair, acceptable and neutral manner.

Hasina also wanted the European countries to continue their support for Bangladesh in facing the risks posed by climate change.

Ambassador at Large M Ziauddin, Principal Secretary MA Karim and PM's Office Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman were present on the occasion.

Stern action if excess fare charged

Warns shipping minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan yesterday directed owners of passenger carrier vessels not to charge additional fares from passengers on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr.

He also warned of stern action if allegations of charging additional fares are found against any vessel owner during the festival.

The minister made the remark while talking to reporters after a meeting with the vessel owners at his office yesterday.

The vessel owners will have to carry passengers charging the fare fixed by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), he said.

Khan said Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) would

introduce special launch services to cope with excessive pressure of passengers during the Eid festival.

He directed the marine court under Department of Shipping to conduct mobile courts regularly ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr to check fares and stop harassment of passengers posed by workers and owners of the vessels. He also urged to strengthen patrol of coast guard to ensure safety for passengers.

The shipping ministry has decided to form a committee to check passengers travelling on the roof of vessels, he said.

"We decided to request the authorities concerned to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply from evening to midnight at Sadarghat as well as all the launch terminals across the country during the festival," he said.

He also said the ministry has directed

the BIWTA to complete dredging at all the ferry ghats to ensure smooth movement of ferries during the festival.

The meeting also decided to introduce one-way traffic system from the Jagannath University to Sadarghat launch terminal road and deploy special volunteers to guide passengers.

Shipping Secretary Abdul Mannan Hawlader, BIWTA Chairman Abdul Malek Miah, BIWTC Chairman Golam Mostafa Kamal, Director General of Department of Shipping Bazlur Rahman, member of the parliamentary standing committee on the shipping ministry Golam Kibria Tipu, Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carrier's) Association Chairman Mahub Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikram, among others, were present at the meeting.

Govt to ensure doctors' presence at hospitals

UNB, Dhaka

The government has been giving a special attention to healthcare services for the country's rural people and persons with disabilities on priority basis, said Health and Family Welfare Minister AFM Ruhul Haque yesterday.

The objective of the healthcare is to reach services to the challenged as they can't afford it, he said while inaugurating a workshop on the Appraisal of the Third Report (1997-2007) of Bangladesh National Health Accounts at a city hotel.

The minister said special measures have been taken to ensure attendance of the physicians and augmentation of medicine supply at the state-run health centres.

The Health Economics Unit under the health ministry and DATA International Limited, a domestic research institute, jointly presented the report under the supervision of NHA specialist Dr

Ravi Rannan Eliya at the workshop.

German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) has provided the technical and financial assistance.

The report revealed that total expenditure in the health sector was 3.4 percent of GDP in 2007 while average expenditure was 3.2 percent from 2003-2007 and 2.8 percent in 1998-2002.

The government expenditure was slightly above one percent of the GDP.

AFM Ruhul Haque said the national health account presents the correlation between the expenditures and flows of finance in the health sector.

Presided over by Health Secretary M Humayun Kabir, the function was also addressed, among others, by Chief of Health Economics Unit Prashanta Bhushan Barua and GTZ Coordinator for Health, Nutrition and Population Activities Dr Helga Piechulek.

Change in domestic violence bill

BSS, Dhaka

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Women and Children Affairs Ministry yesterday decided to place 'The Domestic Violence (Protection & Preservation) Bill 2010' before the parliament with recommendation of necessary addition and amendments.

It was decided at the 14th meeting of the committee at the Sangsad Bhaban with its

chairman Meher Afroz in the chair, a parliamentary secretariat press release said.

Member of the committee State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowhury, M Sirajul Akbar, Zinatun Nesa Talukdar, Rebecca Momin, Sultana Torun, Nasrin Jahan Ratna, Hasina Ahmed and Asma Zerir Jumu attended the meeting.

High officials of the ministries concerned and parliamentary secretariat were present.

This Ramadan...



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Qulkhani



Mr. Najmul Hasan Zahed (80), former Member of Parliament from Habigonj-2 passed away at Apollo Hospital at 8:55 pm on the 16th of August 2010 (Innalillaha.....rajiun). He was buried at his family graveyard at Baniyachong, Habigonj.

His Qulkhani will be held today the 20th of August 2010 at BRAC Centre 75, Mohakhali after Asr prayers. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Family members of the Deceased

Aug 21 Grenade Attack AL to observe two-day programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League (AL) has chalked out a two-day programme to observe the sixth anniversary of the August-21 grenade attack on its party rally.

The programme will begin through placing wreaths at the memorial plaque in front of the AL central office on Bangabandhu Avenue, where the attack was carried out in 2004, in honour of the deceased leaders and workers at 11:30am tomorrow.

A two-minute silence will also be observed at 5:22pm at its countrywide offices for the dead, including Ivy Rahman, the then women affairs secretary of AL and wife of President Zillur Rahman.

A discussion will be held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital on August 22. Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina will address the discussion as Chief guest.

AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam urged all to observe the day and to attend the discussion programme.

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