

## UNCDF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MORRISON MEETS HASINA

# UN body keen to help strengthen local govt

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) is keen to assist Bangladesh in further strengthening its local government structure.

This was revealed when UNCDF Executive Secretary David Morrison paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday, said PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

Welcoming the UN organisation's keenness, the PM reiterated the government's strong commitment to continuing to work for ensuring effective local government for the greater interest of the mass people.

The premier told Morrison that the government is working hard to establish cent percent pro-people local government across the country.

In this regard, the premier mentioned the success of the government in facilitating people with direct elections to elect their own representatives in the upazila parishads, just after taking office in January 2009.

As the UNCDF executive secretary highly lauded Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's vision of putting good governance prominently in its development focus, the PM vowed to maximise the welfare of the people through implementation of various development projects.

She reiterated the government's pledge to introduce free education up to graduate level, particularly for socio-economically vulnerable students.

The PM was also eulogised for her government's steps taken to improve service delivery for the poor.

In reply, the premier told the UNCDF official that though the last BNP-Jamaat government had stopped the project, the present government has again started setting up 18,000 community health clinics to bring quality and economical medical services to the poor people.

In this regard, Hasina lamented that the previous government had closed almost all development projects initiated by the last Awami League government just on political grounds.

She observed that governments will

change time to time through elections, but development projects taken by a particular government should not be closed by the next government just for political reasons.

Hasina told the UN official that her government is continuing various development projects taken by the previous government, which have really been proved as pro-people.

The UN organisation also appreciated the present government's agenda for "change" through implementing the vision of digital Bangladesh.

During the meeting, Morrison handed over a letter from the PM of Uganda to Sheikh Hasina, through which she has been invited to be one of the three key panellists of the inaugural session of the Global Forum on Local Development, to be held in Kampala, Uganda from 4-6 October, along with the President of Uganda and the UNDP administrator.

Ambassador at Large M Ziauddin and PM's Office Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman were also present.



UNCDF Executive Secretary David Morrison pays a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

## INTERNATIONAL OZONE DAY OBSERVED

# Call to create awareness on ozone depletion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Ozone Day was observed in the country yesterday with colourful programmes emphasising on creating awareness about depletion of the ozone layer and its adverse effects on this planet's environment.

This year's theme of the day was "Ozone layer protection: governance and compliance at their best".

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the day.

Marking the day, a colourful procession, attended by girls guide, boy scouts, members of civil society, government and non-government organisations, was brought out from Teacher Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University at 8:00am.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud inaugurated the procession that ended at National Press Club after parading different city streets.

A discussion meeting was then held at the press club.

Speaking as the chief guest, Mahmud stressed the need for creating awareness about the importance of ozone layer and possible impacts on nature caused by ozone layer depletion.

He said it is the government's pledge to save the biodiversity, preserve the overall environment and ward off harmful impacts of climate change and the government is fully aware of it.

"Apart from the international initiatives, we have to build our capacity to save our environment," he said.

Secretary for Environment and Forest Mihir Kanti Majumder, UNDP Deputy Country Director Robert Juhkam and Director General of Directorate of Environment Monowar Islam also spoke on the occasion.

The state minister also handed over prizes to winners of art and essay competition held on the occasion.



A colourful procession, organised by the Department of Environment, is brought out from Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University yesterday morning marking the International Ozone Day 2010.

PHOTO: STAR

# 'Accept MDGs as human rights' Call to use Bangla correctly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A platform of non-government organisations yesterday urged the government to make policies and laws to accept the millennium development goals as human rights, which are set to be achieved by 2015.

The Anti-Poverty Platform, a network of 26 NGOs, emphasised the government's immediate intervention to ensure food security for all and provide pure water and hygienic sanitation facilities in disaster-prone and remote area and to the ultra poor.

At a press conference, the APP also demanded to review all the development goals to ensure gender equity. The conference was organised at National Press Club to inaugurate a six-day countrywide campaign for achieving MDGs.

"We all have to emphasise population control to attain MDGs as the achievement will be useless if we fail to check population growth immediately," said Meher Afroz Chumki, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on women and children affairs ministry.

Muhammad Hillaluddin from Ongkar Bangladesh, Kazi Ali Reza from UN Information Center Bangladesh, Farah Kabir from Action Aid Bangladesh and Rokeya Kabir from Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha spoke at the conference.

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion here yesterday called for using Bangla correctly in every sphere of life.

It is unfortunate that the people of a nation that sacrificed blood for language pay little attention to enrich the mother tongue, they told the discussion on 'New Bangla Grammar' in the Institute of Modern Language auditorium of Dhaka University in the city.

DU Emeritus Prof Dr Anisuzzaman, Vice-Chancellor of University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh (ULAB) Dr Rafiqul Islam and Prof Mansur Musa, former director general of Bangla

Academy spoke at the discussion. Dr Hanne Rute Thompson of School of Oriental and African Studies presented the keynote paper at the discussion.

They said it is impossible to do well in English without learning Bangla properly. We express our emotion about Bangla only in February, they said.

They proposed that a joint language commission be formed comprising Bangladesh and West Bengal for the development of Bangla.

They pointed out mass media could play an important role regarding correct and appropriate use of Bangla.

## E-MAIL THREAT

# Maruf on fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Maruf Raihan, accused of threatening to blow up important installations of the country and attack the police, on a three-day fresh remand.

He was earlier placed on a six-day remand in two phases in the same case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ismail Hossain passed the order after Detective Branch (DB) of police produced Maruf before it with a nine-day remand prayer.

In the forwarding report, DB Sub-Inspector Farid Uzzaman, also the investigation officer of the case, said Maruf has given important information about the e-mail threat, which is being verified. To know more about the threat, the accused needs to be remanded again, Farid said.

Detectives arrested Maruf, a civil engineer and manpower broker, on September 7 from Natun Babupara in Saidpur upazila of Nilphamari district.

He sent the e-mail on August 25 in the guise of a Jamaat-e-Islami Majlish-e-Sura member to the science and information and communication technology ministry using his client Mohammad Monir's e-mail address.

## AL PRESIDUM MEETS TODAY

# PM to brief about latest political situation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina will alert her party's presidium members to the possible destabilisation of the country by the opposition parties, anti liberation war forces, extremists and a separatist group of India at its presidium meeting today.

She will also brief about the latest political situation of Bangladesh.

Earlier on September 13 she alerted her cabinet colleagues about the untoward activities to be carried out to obstruct the process of the trial of war criminals.

At the meeting of the AL Presidium, the highest policy making body of the ruling party,

Hasina will give necessary guidelines to some of her close aides about their role in the parliament if the main opposition BNP take part in the upcoming session on September 20, said party insiders.

Hasina is scheduled to leave for USA tomorrow and is expected to return here on September 28.

The meeting will be held at 7:00pm at Gono Bhaban with AL chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair. At the meeting, AL Presidium Member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury will be given charge of the party in absence of Hasina, sources said.

AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafu Islam, who returned home yesterday morning after several days visit in the USA, urged all the presidium members to attend the meeting on time.

# Woman commits 'suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a woman who allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan inside the bedroom of her apartment in Japan Garden City at Mohammadpur in the city yesterday.

Adabor police recovered the body of Nikita Rahman, 28, wife of Shahidur Rahman, a transport businessman, from a

flat on Floor-14 of building No-19 at 11:00am.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Bachchu Miah of Adabor Police Station said on information, they rushed to the spot and recovered the body, which was hanging from the fan.

The victim's mother-in-law said Nikita did not respond to calls from outside her room in the morning. She informed neighbours about it, who then informed police.

The SI said Shahidur and his

mother claimed that Nikita might have committed suicide following family feud.

Nikita and Shahidur, married eight years ago, lived in Norway. They came to Bangladesh one and a half years back. Nikita wanted to go back to Norway to which Shahidur did not agree.

Locals said Shahidur did not come to the flat for the last three days. He returned to the flat on receiving news of the death.

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