

HSBC-The Daily Star Climate Awards



(Clockwise from left) Sanjay Prakash, left, chief executive of HSBC Bangladesh; Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, second from right; and Teresa Au, extreme right, head of Corporate Sustainability, HSBC Asia Pacific; pose for photograph with the recipients of The HSBC The Daily Star Climate Change Awards, second from left, K M Rezaul Hasnat, managing director of Viyellatex Group; Aneire Ehmara Khan, a researcher; and M Matiul Islam, chairman of Industrial and Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IIDFC) Ltd; at the award giving ceremony held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. Matia Chowdhury speaks as chief guest. Teresa Au also speaking at the ceremony. (Story on Page 1)

Full electronic voting system in future

Prime minister tells expats in Tokyo

UNB, Tokyo

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government wants to make the country's voting system fully electronic to arrange the future elections in a flawless manner.

"Recently, I've talked to the Chief Election Commissioner. I told him to make the country's voting system fully electronic," she said.

The prime minister was addressing a reception programme arranged by the Bangladeshi community living in Japan at the conference room of Hotel New Otani in Tokyo.

Hasina further said her government is ready to give as much money as required to introduce the fully electronic voting (e-voting) system.

She said the last caretaker government had committed many misdeeds, but its one good work was that it made a flawless voter

list identifying all fake voters.

The prime minister vowed to continue to work for further strengthening the democratic system in the country.

"There is no example in the world that military rule has been successful to develop a nation. Without democratic government, a nation cannot progress," she said.

She alleged that the military rulers encouraged corruption in the society to cling to state power for a long time.

Reiterating her government's firm stands for global and national peace, the prime minister said her government's fight against terrorism and corruption will continue. "We want to build Bangladesh as a country of peace, honesty and transparency."

She said during the last BNP-Jamaat government, Bangladesh was known in the world as a country of corruption and militancy. "But we have able to restore the country's image as a country of democracy and peace."

Spelling out their massive plans and projects for infrastructure development, Hasina said the long-awaited Padma Bridge will be constructed within the tenure of the present government.

In this regard, she mentioned her last government had taken initiative to construct the Rupsha Bridge, but the next BNP-Jamaat government stopped the project on political grounds.

On electricity, the prime minister blamed the last BNP-Jamaat alliance government for the present power crisis. "If they (BNP-Jamaat) had worked to increase electricity generation, the present power crisis would not exist," she said.

She said the last Awami League government had increased the power generation from 1,600 MW to 4,300 MW, but when her government took office this time electricity generation was found at only 3,100 MW. Hasina informed that her government has

already taken initiative to set up 30 power plants while a decision has also been taken to build 10 more power plants. "Insha-Allah, we'll be able to remove power crisis," she said.

She said the present government has been able to restore congenial investment atmosphere and progress of economy in the country.

The prime minister mentioned that at present, the country's foreign exchange reserve is nearly US\$ 12 billion while foreign remittances have reached US\$ 11 billion.

She said about 92 percent of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) was implemented last fiscal year.

She said the government is going to introduce the 6th Five-Year Plan for expediting national development. "You, either as citizen of Bangladesh or an expatriate, can invest in various sectors," she told the expatriates.

Describing Japan as a country of dreams, Hasina said Bangladesh could take Japan as a model of being highly industrialised coun-

try from an agriculture-based country.

"Bangladesh is now an agriculture-dependent country. If we work hard with patriotism and dedication, our Bangladesh can also be turned into a modern industrialised country like Japan."

She said to bring more pace in the national economy, the government is giving top priority to the development of communication network.

Besides, projects are being implemented to turn the country into a digital one, she said, adding, "Now you can obtain information about your village or union parishad through internet from the web portals."

The prime minister urged the expatriate Bangladeshis to uphold the nation's image through good deeds.

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni and Advisers to the prime minister Prof Alauddin Ahmed and Dr Mashur Rahman also addressed the programme.



Patua Quamrul Hassan's 89th anniversary of birth today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 89th birth anniversary of renowned artist Patua Quamrul Hassan, the designer of Bangladesh's national flag.

Patua Quamrul Hassan Art School will observe the day with due respect and recall his multi-dimensional contribution to the country's art and cultural arena.

The school authorities will place wreath at his grave on Dhaka University mosque premises at 9:00am, said a press release.

Quamrul played a significant role in the War of Liberation through his paintings that injected vigour and dynamism to the freedom fighters.

He served as the chief artist of the government in exile during the War of Liberation and designed the state monogram of People's Republic of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Bank, Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust, Parjatan Corporation and Biman Bangladesh Airlines.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses a luncheon arranged by Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary League in Tokyo yesterday. (Story on B1)

DU may fire six teachers

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities yesterday recommended dismissal of six teachers of the institution, as they are staying abroad illegally for long without permission.

The six teachers are Prof AFM Mofijul Islam of business faculty, Assistant Prof Mrinmoy Jafar of English, Prof Anwar Hossain of Modern Language Institute, Assistant Prof Iqbal Ahmed of Economics, and Assistant Professors Mahmudur Rahman Bhuiya and Jahid Hasan Chowdhury of Political Science department.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said the university standing committee made the recommendation to the syndicate, the highest decision-making body of DU, in accordance with the university rule. The syndicate will decide their fate in two to three days, he added.

DU sources said the syndicate first collected information on the teachers' overstay and forwarded it to the standing committee for checking and analysing the allegations.

The committee, which found them guilty, finally made the recommendation. The committee held a meeting yesterday with the VC in the chair.

Arts Faculty Dean Dr Sadrul Amin, a member of the committee, said they made such proposal for the greater interest of the university.

A DU source said Prof Mrinmoy Jafar had gone abroad for higher education and still staying there for nine years and a month. The authorities asked him thrice to join the university, but he did not reply. The rest five are staying abroad for a similar period, the source added.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:10pm today and rises at 6:26am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.5 degrees Celsius at Ishwardi and Chuadanga.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.5	14.5	45	55
Chittagong	26.8	17.5	67	84
Rajshahi	26.6	10.6	68	75
Rangpur	25.2	13.5	87	88
Khulna	27.0	15.2	57	62
Barisal	28.1	14.0	75	85
Sylhet	28.8	15.0	79	73
Cox's Bazar	29.0	19.8	53	72

Dhaka Int'l Book Fair begins

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka International Book Fair 2010 launched yesterday with the slogan 'Books for achieving Vision 2021' at Dhaka University playground in the city.

Information and cultural affairs minister Abul Kalam Azad inaugurated the fair as chief guest with the ministry's Acting Secretary Suraia Begum in the chair.

Azad said to ward off military government should provide the young generation with adequate number of good books to gain knowledge on different subjects, playgrounds for their physical fitness and refreshment as well as cultural centres to develop their minds.

He also urged writers and publishers to publish more effective books so that people can be inspired to be secular and love the country.

State Minister for cultural affairs Promode Mankin said the government approved a budget of Tk 10 million to establish a library at every primary school across the country to enrich children's knowledge.

He also said the government already established a library in a primary school of Sherpur.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique urged the government to come forward and take steps for translating effective books of different languages into our own language and hence enrich our culture.

National Library Director Rafique Azad and eminent poet Asad Chowdhury spoke as special guests on the occasion.

Speakers said if the young generation starts to read and collect books, the nation

Information minister urges writers and publishers to publish more effective books so that people can be inspired to be secular and love the country.

will benefit in the long run.

The fair will continue from 2:00pm to 9:00pm everyday up to December 16 and during the government holidays it would begin at 11:00am.

Every afternoon, cultural programmes including singing of Nazrul songs, Tagore songs, Lalou Sangeet and

poetry recitations will be held and new books will be launched at the fair premises.

National Library and Bangladesh Cultural Affairs Ministry, who organised the fair, brought out a colorful procession from the Public Library at Shahbagh in the city that ended in front of the National Press Club.



QULKHANI

We are deeply requested to inform that Late Mr. G.M. Chowdhury's wife, Mrs. Mumataj Chowdhury passed away on 29th November, Monday night in the capital's Apollo Hospital (Innalillaha wa inna elahi raziwun). She was 84 years old at the time of death. She was the mother of the Chief Executive Officer of Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited, Mr. Mehboob Chowdhury. She has also left behind three sons, Mr. Masud Chowdhury, Mr. Azman Chowdhury and Mr. Afsan Chowdhury, countless relatives and well-wishers.

We sincerely request the presence of all the well-wishers of the departed at the Doa-Mahfil to be held today after the Maghrib prayers at Gulshan's Azad Masjid to ask forgiveness for her soul.

Family Members of the Departed Soul