

SRI LANKAN FOREIGN SECY IN CITY Dhaka-Colombo consultation today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The first-ever foreign secretary level consultation between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will be held here today.

The consultation will take place at State Guest House Meghna when Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mohamed Mijarul Quayes will lead Bangladesh delegation while his counterpart Chrysantha Romesh Jayasinghe will lead Sri Lanka delegation.

The consultation is going to take place under a Protocol signed in April 2003, which provides for an institutional forum for review of the full range of Bangladesh-Sri Lanka bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan foreign secretary, who arrived in Dhaka yesterday to attend the consultation, called on Foreign

Minister Dipu Moni at her office.

During the meeting, they discussed various issues of mutual interest.

She expressed hope that the consultation, which will be held today between the two foreign secretaries, will intensify cooperation between the two countries in various fields of bilateral and multilateral forums.

Dipu Moni conveyed her gratitude to the government of Sri Lanka for its support to Bangladesh's candidature to host the permanent secretariat of the Bimstec.

She also conveyed her invitation to the foreign minister of Sri Lanka to visit Bangladesh. She stated that Bangladesh is keenly waiting to receive the president of Sri Lanka who is expected to pay a state visit to Bangladesh in the near future.



Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury speaks at the inaugural ceremony of weeklong Bijoyer Natya Utsab 2011 (festival on theatre of victory) organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Foundation and The Daily Star at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

4 Hizbut men arrested in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion arrested four members of Islamist outfit Hizbut Tawhid at Talaimari in Rajshahi city Monday night.

The elite force also seized 19 CDs, nine books and 40 leaflets of the organisation from them.

Acting on a tip-off, officials of Rab-5 arrested Shafiqul Islam, 30, Aslam Ali, 24, M Alim and Rajan Ali, 21, when they were distributing the leaflets in the area.

Of the arrestee, Shafiqul and Aslam, both of Baje Kajla in the city, had been arrested several times for distributing leaflets of Hizbut Tawhid and obtained bail, said Rab and police sources.

Rab officials said all the four arrestees had admitted their involvement with the outfit, which is not yet banned in the country but has reportedly hurt religious sentiment of Muslims.

'Enrol more Bangladeshis at US varsities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University AAMS Arefin Siddique yesterday requested US President Barack Obama's Science Envoy Dr Rita R Colwell to take steps to enrol more Bangladeshi students at different US universities.

He said this while Dr Rita, also professor of University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University, called on the VC at the latter's office.

They discussed issues of exchanging teachers, researchers and students between Dhaka University and US universities, says a press release.



Foreign Minister Dipu Moni inaugurates the award giving ceremony of annual sports competition at Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in the city yesterday, hoisting the national flag and releasing balloons.

PHOTO : STAR

NEW FARE RATE 68 auto drivers, owners punished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four mobile courts penalised 68 unruly drivers and owners of CNG-run autorickshaws in the city yesterday, as they did not comply with the new rate of fare.

The courts filed 68 cases, realised Tk 38,400 as fine, and ordered 15 defiant vehicles to the dumping ground, said Abul Bashar Md Fakruzzaman, revenue deputy collector of Dhaka.

"The CNG-run autorickshaw drivers and owners are very unruly. They harass the general commuters at will and hardly care motor vehicle laws and government decisions."

The government raised the existing fare rate significantly from January 16. Most drivers, however, continued harassing the city commuters by charging extra fare, refusing to go to destinations, and running the vehicles without meters.

There have been widespread public allegations that many drivers have not yet calibrated (readjustment) their metres as per the government directive. Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) launched the drive across the capital on the very day the new rate came into effect.

Till January 24, BRTA realised Tk 2 lakh in all as fines slapped on 297 errant auto-rickshaw drivers. Eight of the auto-rickshaws were sent to dumping ground and 289 cases filed against the rest.

"The mobile court drives aim to force the defiant vehicle owners and drivers to comply with the revised fare rate," said Tapan Kumar Sarkar, director (enforcement) of BRTA.

In the face of the action, the auto-rickshaw owners started to queue up at BRTA and got 10,700 meters sealed by the authority during January 19 and 24, said Sarkar.

TK 8 CRORE MISAPPROPRIATION Seven engineers, BTCL inspector sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent seven engineers and an inspector of Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL) to jail in connection with two cases filed on charges of misappropriating around Tk 8 crore.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hoque of the Senior Special Judge's Court also rejected their bail prayers.

The accused are former BTCL Divisional Engineer Mostafa Hanif Chowdhury, its incumbent Deputy Assistant Engineer Shahjahan Miah, Divisional Engineer (Switching) of Gazipur Staff College Fakhru Haider Chowdhury, Divisional Engineer AKM Zafar Sadek, Deputy Assistant Engineers Fazlul Huq-1, Fazlul Huq-2, and Ahmed Ali, and Vehicle Inspector Mohammad Faruq.

The court passed the order after the accused along with their lawyers appeared before it and sought bail in the case.

On December 21 in 2008, Assistant Director of the Anti-Corruption

Commission (ACC) SM Shaidur Rahman filed the cases with Ramna Police Station against the officials of BTCL, formerly known as BTTB.

The accused surrendered to the High Court on August 25 last year seeking anticipatory bail in the cases, but the court granted them bail till submission of the police reports of the cases.

Meantime, the ACC pressed charges against the accused on October 4 and 21 last year showing 23 people as prosecution witnesses in each case.

In the first case, it was alleged that Mostafa Hanif, Shahjahan Miah and Abdur Goni in connivance with others embezzled Tk 3,78,76,500 by using fake bills and vouchers in the name of repair and maintenance cost of 107 vehicles for fiscal year 2002-2003.

In the second case, it was alleged that Fakhru and five others in collusion with others embezzled Tk 4,17,32,000 by using fake bills and vouchers in the name of repair and maintenance cost of vehicles between the fiscals 2004-2005 and 2007-2008.

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স্বাধীনতার ৪০ বছর

বাংলাদেশ গ্রুপ থিয়েটার ফেডারেশন এর ৩০ বছর

The Daily Star এর ২০ বছর

জিয়াউর রহমান জয়ন্তী

২৫-৩১ জানুয়ারি ২০১১

অংশগ্রহণকারী দল ও নাটক

তারিখ	জাতীয় নাট্যশালা প্রতিদিন সন্ধ্যা ৭:০০মি:	এক্সপেরিমেন্টাল হল প্রতিদিন সন্ধ্যা ৬:৩০মি:	স্টুডিও থিয়েটার হল প্রতিদিন সন্ধ্যা ৬:৪৫মি:
আজ (২৬/০১/২০১১)	নাট্যকেন্দ্র ডাঃ জি. কুমার	থিয়েটার (আরামবাগ) জন্মসূত্র	মহাকাশ নাট্য সম্প্রদায় শিখরী কথা
২৭/০১/২০১১	নাট্যকেন্দ্র উদ্ভাসনাক	স্বচন নাট্য সংসদ মহাজনের নাও	শব্দ নাট্যচর্চা কেন্দ্র দর্পণ সাক্ষী
২৮/০১/২০১১	নাগরিক নাট্য সম্প্রদায় কাঁঠাল বাগান	লোকনাট্য দল (বনানী) সোনাই মাখব	নাট্যধারা এবং অশ্বমেধ যজ্ঞ
২৯/০১/২০১১	দেশ নাটক প্রাকৃত পুরাঙ্গন	সময় ভাঙ্গের মানুষ	দৃশ্যপট সক্রিয়দের জীবনবন্দী
৩০/০১/২০১১	পদাতিক নাট্য সংসদ-বাংলাদেশ জলবালিকা	ঢাকা থিয়েটার বিনোদিনী	থিয়েটার আর্ট ইউনিট মগজ সমাচার
৩১/০১/২০১১	লোক নাট্যদল (সিদ্ধেশ্বরী) মাঝ রাতের মানুষেরা	থিয়েটার (বেইলী রোড) মেরাজ ফকিরের মা	সংলাপ গ্রুপ থিয়েটার বদনাম

টিকেট : বিকাল ৪টা থেকে হল কাউন্টারে

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