



EID DELIGHTS

President Zillur Rahman attends the Eid-ul-Fitr congregation at National Eidgah and exchanges pleasantries with diplomats and distinguished personalities at Bangabhaban. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia exchange Eid greetings with the personalities at Gono Bhaban and Ladies Club respectively. Political leaders of Chittagong, irrespective of which party they belong, share the joy of Eid together. Kids, families, and people of all ages visit Shishu Park in the capital and Agrabad Karnaphuli Shishu Park in the port city. Enthusiasts bring out an Eid procession from Dhaka Shishu Park. On the day of delight, Dhaka Zoo swarms with crowds of visitors.

PHOTO: STAR, PID



BANGLADESH ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS Colombia keen to expand trade, investment

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Akramul Qader who is also concurrently accredited as ambassador to Brazil, Mexico and Colombia presented his credentials to Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos Calderón last Tuesday.

The Colombian president expressed his government's interest to work with Bangladesh in important areas such as trade, investment and human development, according to a release issued by the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington.

President Juan Manuel said climate change adaptation, disaster management, vulnerable group protection are some of the issues equally featuring in both Colombia and Bangladesh's development strategies.

The ambassador thanked the Colombian President for his assurances and pointed out

that the two democratic nations should work together for an enhanced connectivity at both government and business levels.

Referring to Bangladesh's recent successes in exporting world class products like pharmaceuticals, textile and apparels, ceramic, agro-processing, jute and jute goods, Qader suggested that the Colombian business community should seriously look out for the options to buy these products from Bangladesh.

He noted that considering the spread of professional services by Bangladeshi NGOs in various parts of Latin America, Colombia may also utilise their competence in accordance with its own demands.

He expressed his hope that the linkages set through the recent visit to Colombia by a high-level fact-finding team from Bangladesh would contribute to expanding bilateral ties in sectors unexplored.

Dr Moin Uddin passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Dr Moin Uddin Ahmed, a freedom fighter and former parliamentarian, passed away due to old-age complications at his residence in Monakasha village of Shibganj upazila yesterday morning. He was 85.

Dr Ahmed left behind his wife, six sons, and one daughter and a host of relatives and admires to mourn his death.

He will be buried at his family graveyard in Monakasha with state honour after namaj-e-janaja Saturday morning.

A former Awami League leader, Moin Uddin Ahmed had been elected a member of parliament (MP) from Chapainawabganj-1 constituency (Shibganj) in 1970, 1973, and 1996.

Khademul Bashar's death anniversary observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The 35th death anniversary of former Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-marshal

Muhammad Khademul Bashar was observed on Thursday, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil was arranged at the central mosques of BAF Base Bashar and BAF Base Kurmitola after Fazr and Asr prayers respectively.

Later, Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman visited the grave of the former air chief to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Air Vice-marshal Muhammad Khademul Bashar commanded the sixth sector during the war of liberation in 1971. The brave pilot died on September 1, 1976 in a plane crash.

Chinese help for greener economy sought

UNB, Dhaka

Industries Minister Dilip Barua said Bangladesh is ready to work in close partnership with China to realise potentials to leapfrog into a greener economy and adopt technologies that promote sustainable energy use and greener industrialisation.

He said a comprehensive policy support and enabling market-driven mechanisms are required to enhance the efficiency in energy conservation and emission reduction towards greener economy.

"We urge China and other emerging economies to help strengthen capacity of LDCs in related policy and technical areas within the framework of South-South cooperation," he said, while addressing a ministerial workshop on "Industrial energy conservation and emission reduction for developing countries" in Beijing, China on

Thursday.

He said Bangladesh would be willing to explore the possibilities of engagement and cooperation at the level of governments, private sector and through public-private partnership.

Barua said it will be a win-win proposition for both countries and can be further replicated in terms of cooperation with other developing countries. "This current workshop can be a critical signpost in that direction." He said Bangladesh and China are bound by strong, time-tested and multidimensional bilateral ties within the framework of a comprehensive partnership of cooperation.

He said LDCs like Bangladesh are committed to industrial energy conservation and emission reduction, the pace of such a transition needs to be determined in view of the specific situation in each of these countries.

"This is where China, with its proven, effective and affordable technologies, can build a strong partnership of cooperation with LDCs and developing countries in general," he added.

Barua appreciated China's efforts to develop such strategies through relevant international and regional forums, and remain ready to explore possible ways to complement such efforts.

Chinese Deputy Minister for Ministry of Industries and Information Technology Liu Lihua inaugurated the workshop.

Representative and Head of UNIDO Regional Office Edward Clarence Smith also spoke on the occasion.

Barua said he is confident that the workshop will help further broaden our understanding about the possible avenues of cooperation amongst developing countries towards industrial energy conservation and emission reduction.

Optical fibre networks at 1,000 UPs soon

BSS, Dhaka

The government has decided to install optical fibre networks at 1,000 union parishads (UPs) to reach qualitative and efficient ICT facilities at a lower cost, officials said yesterday.

"Broadband Internet service through the optical fibre is essential to ensure quality ICT services and that is why the government has decided to install optical fibre network across the country," Posts and Telecommunications Secretary Sunil Kanti Bose told BSS.

He said a proposal for extending the facility is now waiting for the Ecenc approval. It will get the approval soon as the government believes that ICT to boost the country's economic growth eradicating poverty, he added.

The officials concerned said works are already underway to complete installation of optical fibre facilities at 100 UPs with the financial support of the state-run Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Limited (BTCL) while all the 4501 UPs or lowest strata of local governance system have already come under internet facilities through the government's A2I Programme.

BTCL is likely to be entrusted with the charge of installing the optical fibre facilities at 1,000 UPs covering all the 64 dis-

tricts in next two years at a cost of Tk 719 crore, subject to the Ecenc approval in line with the government's digital Bangladesh campaign under the Vision-2021.

They said most of the ICT facilities at UPs are being run through the relatively backward dial up system that takes a longer time for the internet connectivity charging relatively higher cost.

"Yet the ICT facilities are playing a very encouraging role for the economic and social empowerment of ordinary people in villages providing the information services," an A2I official said.

Telecom ministry officials said they expected the optical fibre services to ensure faster development, particularly in the agriculture, trade and rural-based industries sectors creating employment and self-employment opportunities in the rural areas.

The main activities of the project are to make available information technology among rural people with the installation of 11,060km optical fibre cable.

Sunil Kanti said the rural people could not use Internet in their house due to country's socio-economic conditions. So, the government emphasised to make Internet available at community centre, post office and health centre beside union parishad information centre, he added.

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