

BANGLADESHI PRODUCTS

US urged to ensure tariff free access

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

International Business Forum President Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury urged US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan Mozena to take steps to ensure tariff-free access of Bangladeshi products in the US market.

Mahmudul Islam, also former mayor of Chittagong City Corporation, raised the demand when the US ambassador met him on a courtesy visit at his residence in the port city on Tuesday.

Mosharraf Hossain, Morshed Khan, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, Morshed Murad Ibrahim, president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Prof Anwarul Azim, vice-chancellor of Chittagong University, and MA Malek, editor of local daily newspaper Dainik Azadi, also were present.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina swears in newly elected mayor of Comilla City Corporation Monirul Haque at a function in the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Recent polls proved no vote rigging

Says prime minister

UNB, Dhaka

Newly elected mayor of Comilla City Corporation Monirul Haque and 36 councillors were sworn in yesterday at a function at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the capital.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina administered the oath to the mayor at the International Conference Centre of the PMO.

Earlier, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam administered oath to the 36 councillors, including nine female councillors from reserve seats, at the same venue. State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak was present.

Congratulating the new mayor and councillors, Sheikh Hasina urged them to carry out their responsibilities with utmost sincerity.

She said that all the elections, held under the present Awami League-led grand alliance government, were free, fair and neutral, and the people were

able to choose their representatives according to their liking.

"We want peoples' empowerment... through this the democracy will be strengthened," she added.

Extending her thanks to the Election Commission for holding fair polls, Hasina said that her government always wants the election commission to be strengthened and work independently.

She said that her government believes in people's empowerment as all power belongs to the people. "Unless there is people's empowerment, there will be no peace and democracy will not be strengthened. Thus, there will be no development in the country."

Referring to the recent polls in the Comilla City Corporation where Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were used in all the 65 centres, Hasina said it proved that through the use of EVM, there was no vote rigging as Monirul Haque had been elected despite opposition from his party.

"It has also been proved that through EVM, opposition candidates can also be elected."

She said the most salient feature of the recent polls in the Comilla City Corporation was that it was held peacefully and freely.

The prime minister said the polls in the Chittagong City Corporation and the Narayanganj City Corporation was held partially under EVMs, but this time the entire Comilla City Corporation poll was held under EVMs.

Earlier, on January 5 this year, Sammilita Nagarik Committee's mayoral candidate Monirul Haque Sakku swept to victory in the maiden Comilla City Corporation polls defeating his nearest rival Afzal Khan, a ruling Awami League-backed candidate, by a huge margin of 30,148 votes.

Comilla Pourashava was upgraded to City Corporation on July 10 last year.

THREAT TO JOURNOS ASK demands investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a rights body, yesterday expressed deep concern over recent incidents of death threats to journalists in the country.

An anonymous caller on Tuesday threatened to kill Iftekhar Mahmud, a senior reporter of Bangla daily Prothom Alo and its Editor Matir Rahman for publishing reports on politics and terrorism in Khulna. The reports were published in the daily on October 4 and October 6.

The organisation also demanded a probe into the matter, said a press release.

Freedom of expression might be hampered following the incidents, it said.

CLIMATE AWARENESS Bangladesh flag at Antarctica

UNB, Dhaka

Environment and Forests Minister Hasan Mahmud hoisted the national flag of Bangladesh at Antarctica during his visit with former US Vice President Al Gore.

Al Gore has arranged the voyage to Antarctica as part of a campaign to raise awareness against global warming, said a message received here yesterday.

The voyage that began on January 29 from Argentina is expected to be completed on February 6. Al Gore has taken his fight against climate change to Antarctica as part of a cruise organised by his Climate Reality Project.

The titled of the voyage is "Destination Reality-2012".

Al Gore and over 100 fellow-travellers joined the cruise.

UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres, climatologists James Hansen of Nasa and Kevin Trenberth of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Professor of Michigan University in the USA Rosina Bierbaum, film actor James Cameron, Rockefeller Foundation president Judith Rodin and British billionaire Richard Branson took part in the voyage.

Sust teachers submit memo to VC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Pro-BNP teachers under the banner "conscious teachers" submitted a memorandum to Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) vice chancellor yesterday over their five-point demand, including steps to bring back a congenial atmosphere on the campus.

Other demands include prohibiting outsiders on the campus, allotting hall seats after providing new identity cards and taking decisions after discussions with civil society members instead of depending on police.



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid presents Khalid Ibnal Asad with the Chancellor's Gold Medal during the 12th convocation of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) in Bangladesh Army Stadium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

SSC examinee commits suicide

BSS, Savar

Sharmin Akhter, an SSC examinee this year from Kalampur Balum Ataur Rahman Khan High School, committed suicide by taking pesticide at Kuchirchar village under Dhamrai upazila of the district.

Sharmin Akhter, 15, daughter of Abdus Salam, was found lying on the floor when her family members were looking for her to go to examination hall yesterday.

She was rushed to a Dhamrai Hospital where attending doctors declared her dead.

Finance minister should be removed

Independent MP tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Independent lawmaker Fazlul Azim demanded in parliament yesterday that the government "remove" Finance Minister AMA Muhith from his post due to his failure to perform duties.

"Experts have constantly been saying that the country's economy is not in good condition, but the finance minister is not paying any heed to the problems. Therefore, the government should remove him and appoint someone competent as finance minister", he said.

The lone independent lawmaker was speaking on a point of order.

"There is no doubt that he [Muhith] is a good man. But all jobs cannot be duly performed by good persons all the time", he said, adding, "He has tried his best but could not save the country's economy, could not save the share market from debacle".

"I will say that he [finance minister] should resign on his own, as there are enough competent persons in parliament to replace him", Azim said.



Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Former lawmaker Prof Jannatul Ferdouse died of old age complications at her residence of Lahiripara in the town yesterday. He was 74.

Jannatul left behind her husband former lawmaker Amzad Hossain, one son and two daughters.

She was buried at Arifpur graveyard in the town after her namaz-e-janaza at the Town Hall ground.

She served as a professor of Bangla department in Pabna Govt Women College from 1974 to 1995.

Different organisations including district Awami League, Pabna Press Club and district Bar Association expressed deep shock at the death of Jannatul.

Md Sayedul Haque

METRO DESK



Md Sayedul Haque, eminent writer, Islamic scholar and editor and

publisher of now defunct the Dainik Nabajat, passed away at his Shantinagar residence in the capital on January 31. He was 84.

He left behind his three sons and four daughters to mourn his death, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held today after Juma prayers.

He will be buried beside Purba Khabashpur Saifunnesa Jame Masjid in Faridpur town.



Waste and debris are all that remains of around 500 illegal structures demolished by the railway authorities during an eviction drive along the two-kilometre rail track between Khilgaon and Malibagh in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Mollah Abdur Rashid, a former joint registrar of Co-operative Societies.

Special prayers will be offered after today's Juma prayers at the mosque of Sector-6 in the city's Uttara.

A doa mahfil will also be held at his village in Shibpur of Narsingdi on February 7.

14 Death Anniversary of former Secretary M. Akhtar Ali



On the occasion of observing the 14th Death anniversary of former Secretary Late M. Akhtar Ali today the 3rd February 2012 a milad and Doa Mahafil will be held at his residence after Asar prayer. All relatives and well wishers of Late M. Akhtar Ali requested to kindly join the prayer for the salvation of his sacred soul.

Mrs. Akhtar Ali

House # 14/A, Road # 95, Gulshan-2 Dhaka-1212
Tel: 8881544

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