

Mozena on 5-day visit to Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

US Ambassador Dan W Mozena will begin a five-day visit to different northern districts, including Rajshahi, from today.

He will visit Souhardo, a development project by Care in Sirajganj, Gono Bhaban in Natore, and Puthia Rajbari en route to Rajshahi on the first day, said Morshedul Anwar Khan, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police.

The ambassador will also visit police stations and different projects having US involvement and observe community police activities alongside meeting politicians, business people, and university teachers, Khansaid.

His visits also include Barendra Museum, a silk factory, a madrasa, an English language centre, and several other places in Rajshahi and Sona Mosque land port in Chapainawabganj.

Mozena will end his visit on March 1 through joining the community police festival at Rajshahi Stadium.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Abdul Hai Khan, former president of Sylhet District Bar Association, died due to old-age complications at a private hospital in Sylhet city yesterday at the age of 67.

He left behind his wife and three daughters to mourn his death.

Hai, former commissioner of Sylhet pourashava, was buried at a graveyard adjacent to the shrine of Hajar Shahjal (RA) in the city after namaz-e-janaza after Asr prayers.



PHOTO: STAR

Actor Ilias Kanchan addresses a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday protesting the death of journalist Fakhrul Hossain Shakil in a road accident. The people of Charfakira in Noakhali residing in Dhaka organised the event.

BDR CARNAGE 'Accused to be punished within govt's term'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mentioning that the BDR carnage trial is being held after a fair investigation, Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbub Ul Alam Hanif yesterday said the accused will be punished during the tenure of the present government.

Everyone was anxious during the carnage on February 25-26, 2009 except BNP and Jamaat. They did not contact anyone on this matter, he said, adding that this indifference is a cause for suspicion.

He was addressing a discussion organised by Awami League at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city in memory of the army officers killed during the carnage.

Hanif urged the opposition to talk about the caretaker government system in parliament. "You will not benefit through movements. Come to the Jatiya Sangsad. We will hear your demands there."

Indicating the BNP as responsible for the BDR carnage, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku said the mutiny aimed at toppling the government.

Responsible nations must assist the affected Dipu Moni tells a Geneva seminar on climate change

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The global community must operationalise the principle of equity to find durable solutions to climate change and develop effective partnership between climate change and human rights communities, said Foreign Minister Dipu Moni.

In this context, she referred to the case of climate injustice as the most affected countries were historically not responsible for climate change.

She was addressing a seminar on "Addressing the impacts of climate change on full enjoyment of human rights" in Geneva on Friday.

At the seminar, Dipu Moni brought out the case of disproportionate focus on violent conflict over rapid or slow onset of natural disasters, in spite of manifold impacts.

She asked the historically responsible countries to repay their climate debt by providing financial support and technology to the affected countries for adapting to the damaging effects of climate change.

She also encouraged the developing countries, which are significant emitters, to voluntarily assist the affected countries.

She urged the human rights community to follow the climate

change programmes and monitor their impact on enjoyment of human rights and human development.

The seminar was jointly organised by Bangladesh and Philippines with the support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Navy Pillay.

He along with Commissioner for Climate Change for the Philippines Mary Ann Sering also attended the seminar.

Afterwards, Dipu Moni met her Sri Lankan counterpart Gamini Laksman Peiris and discussed issues of mutual concern.

Later in the day, Dipu Moni

addressed the Conference on Disarmament, where she emphasised the need to discuss the disarmament agenda at the same footing as the economic, social or the environmental agenda, as they are all inter-dependent.

She also viewed that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee for a peaceful and secure world.

The foreign minister also met World Health Organisation Director General Dr Margaret Chan and discussed issues of international cooperation to face global health challenges.

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'Politics must not exploit religion'

UNB, Dhaka

Peace will never come in the world if religious exploitation for political intentions continues.

The affirmation was made by Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique while speaking as the chief guest at a seminar on "GC Dev Memorial Speech 2011" in RC Majumdar Arts Auditorium yesterday.

"Humanity and peace will not be established in the world without inter-religious harmony and we should learn from nature how harmony is created," he said.

"Every religion in the world teaches us how to attain human values and become a perfect man but we do not always adhere to the ideology," he said, adding "On the other hand, we are making chaos and violence in the name of religion."

The DUVC urged all to build a liberal society by removing all forms of oppression and discrimination from it.

The keynote paper was read by Prof Dr Kazi Nurul Islam, Department of World Religion and Culture, titled "Guru Nanak's philosophy on harmony."

Prof Dr Harun or Rashid, pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Sadru Amin, Dean of Arts Faculty, among others, spoke.

Prof Dr Harun or Rashid presided over the seminar.

No atmosphere for left politics
Says Dilip Barua

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Industries Minister and General Secretary of Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal Dilip Barua yesterday said there is no favourable environment for practising left leaning politics at this moment in the country.

He said this at a view exchange meeting with the journalists organised by Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal at a city restaurant.

He said there are only two political powers in the country. One is the progressive and anti-communal force, which believes in the spirit of the 1971 War of Liberation, led by Sheikh Hasina. Another is the reactionary force which does not believe in the liberation war.

"We have no alternative but to win against the anti-liberation forces through completing the war crimes trial and for this reason every force which believes in the liberation war should be united," he said.

He arranged the meeting against the backdrop of a meeting held by the ruling AL led 14-party grand alliance on Thursday where Samyabadi Dal leaders were absent.

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