

# Japan time-tested friend: Dipu Moni

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni has said Japan as a time-tested and all-weather friend of Bangladesh has been contributing to the country's socio-economic development for the last four decades.

"We firmly believe that we'll consolidate a more comprehensive partnership with Japan," she said at a reception marking the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Japan at Sonargaon Hotel on Saturday evening.

Dipu Moni said over the last forty years Japan has provided grants and loans in multi-faceted programmes in Bangladesh.

She said the Japanese government continues to extend assistance in the forms of aid, technical cooperation and soft loans to a wide range of areas.

These include infrastructure, education, human resource development, health, water and sanitation, disaster management, agriculture and rural development, power and energy, environment protection and climate change.

The Meghna-Gumti bridge and Sonargaon Pan Pacific Hotel symbolise the mutual bond and fraternity.

Japan is the largest bilateral donor for Bangladesh. Between 1972 and 2011, Bangladesh received a total commitment of around US\$ 10 billion as Japanese assistance.

In 2011, a total of US\$ 670 million financial loan has been accorded to Bangladesh through the 32nd Yen loan package.

The two-way trade volume has reached US\$ 1.52 billion in 2011. The export from Bangladesh to Japan has been recorded at US\$ 434 million in 2010-2011, which is an increase after granting GSP facilities by Japan to Bangladesh products.

The foreign minister said enormous scope is there to increase the bilateral trade in many of the potential sectors of both the countries.

Japan, being a leading source of investment for Bangladesh, 208 Japanese companies have registered for investment of US\$ 1.24 billion by December 2011 with employment opportunity for 45,000 people.

Our diplomatic correspondent adds: at the reception, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Shiro Sadoshima said he is eager to take bilateral relations to a higher level as Japan and Bangladesh jointly move towards a promising future.



Construction materials of a high-rise building partially block this road and the adjacent footpath in Agrabad commercial area in Chittagong city. The photo was taken around 12:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syeda Tasmin Jahan, senior scientific officer of BCSIR (Science Laboratory), passed away on Thursday night.

She left behind her husband and one son.

Her Qulkhani was held at the BCSIR Staff Quarter Mosque after Asr prayers yesterday.

## Ctg AL grand rally on March 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League (AL) Chittagong unit leaders yesterday decided to hold the party's grand rally on Polo Ground in the port city on March 28.

Leaders of both the factions of AL Chittagong city unit as well as leaders of Chittagong south district and north district units took the decision at a preparatory meeting at a hotel in the city.

Veteran AL lawmaker and AL Chittagong north district unit President Engr Mosharrif Hossain told The Daily Star that they have decided at the meeting to hold the grand rally on Polo Ground on March 28.

"We have primarily set a target of mobilising 10 lakh people at the rally and all the leaders pledged to work together to achieve the target," he said. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to attend the rally as the chief guest, he added.

City unit President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and General Secretary Kazi Enamul Hoque Danu attended the meeting side by side with their rival faction leaders Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen and AL lawmaker Nurul Islam BSC.

Environment and Forests Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud and AL lawmakers MA Latif, ABM Abul Kashem, ABM Fazle Karim, Begum Cheman Ara Tayab and Hasina Mannan were present.

## DISTORTION OF HISTORY

# Court summons 10 academics Apr 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned 10 academics before it on April 5 in a case filed on charge of distorting history of the War of Liberation in a textbook of Bangladesh Open University (BOU).

Metropolitan Magistrate Kamrunnahar Rumi issued the order after Dhaka University (DU) Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Harun-or-Rashid filed the case yesterday.

The accused in the case are BOU Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof RIM Aminur Rashid, former BOU VC Prof Ershadul Bari, DU finance department Prof Dr M Farid Ahmed, former BOU acting VC Md Ruhul Amin Akanda, former BOU director of printing and publication Dr Fazle Ali, former BOU dean Prof Ansaruzzaman, Bangladesh Islamic University BBA programme Chairman Dr Arshed Ali Matubbar,

BOU Islamic studies department Associate Prof Md Abdur Rahim, BOU international relations department assistant Prof Md Kamal Uddin and BOU Islamic studies department lecturer Md Kutub Uddin.

Prof Harun, in the case statement, said he and DU political science department Chairman Dr Shawkat Ara Hossain wrote the Civics second paper of Higher Secondary Certificate that was published in 2000.

Later, the accused distorted history by deleting the name of Bangabandhu from the main copy and other points of Liberation War. The High Court, during hearing of a writ petition last week, summoned six people, including Prof Harun, today on charge of distorting the history in the textbook.

Four others are RIM Aminur Rashid, Sawkat Ara Hosain, Prof Sahida Sultana, Mahfuza Chowdhury and HM Delwar Hossain.

## Call to form effective river commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists at a seminar yesterday urged the government to form an effective and accountable river commission to formulate an integrated and well-planned strategy to revive the country's rivers.

They also called upon all to work together to prevent any barrier on the way of river streams.

They made the call at the seminar on "Management of the Rivers of Bangladesh: Present Condition and Remedy" organised by Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) at Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Terming the existing river commission ineffective, Poba chairman Abu Naser Khan said the country needs more powerful and independent commission.

He also stressed the need for implementation of the grand plan for inland water transportation and adoption of multi modal transportation policy so that people could easily move in the capital.



Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited President Shakil Rizvi hands over a cheque worth Tk 25 lakh and papers of a car, Toyota Avanza, to Syeda Sharifa Mubeen, wife of General Md Abdul Mubeen, chief of army staff of Bangladesh Army and patron of Prayas, as a part of its corporate social responsibility at a programme in the city yesterday. Prayas is a school run by Bangladesh Army for physically challenged children.

PHOTO: COURTESY

**National Domestic Biogas and Manure Programme (NDBMP)**  
**Infrastructure Development Company Limited (IDCOL)**  
Biogas Users Survey

Capable firms are invited to conduct Biogas Users' Survey on the biogas plants constructed in 2011 under NDBMP with a view to assessing the satisfaction level of the users. Interested firms may send their Technical and Financial Proposal as per ToR available at IDCOL's website: [www.idcol.org/publications.php](http://www.idcol.org/publications.php) latest by 4.00 p.m. 22 March, 2012, in a sealed cover.

### OPENING AND MAINTAINING OF FOREIGN CURRENCY ACCOUNT WITH AUTHORIZED DEALER BRANCHES OF AB BANK LIMITED

Procedures and key information for opening of Foreign Currency (FC) accounts with AB Bank Limited is appended below:

- 1. Private Foreign Currency (FC) Account :**
  - Private FC Account may be opened in our Authorized Dealer branches by (a) Bangladeshi nationals working/residing abroad (b) Foreign nationals residing abroad or in Bangladesh (c) Foreign missions and their expatriate employees (d) Foreign firms registered abroad and operating in Bangladesh or abroad (e) Bangladeshi nationals working in foreign/international organizations in Bangladesh with entitlement to receive salary in foreign currency.
  - Bangladeshi nationals proceeding abroad for employment/immigration/self-employment may open this account even without initial deposits.
  - The account opened by non-resident Bangladeshis may be maintained as long as the account holder desires even after their return. Account holders may operate the accounts themselves or nominate other persons in Bangladesh for this purpose.
  - Remittance from abroad through banking channel may be sent to this account. This account may be credited with fund from other foreign currency accounts. In addition, cash foreign currency brought into Bangladesh by the account holder while on visit may be deposited in this account.
  - FC account is in the nature of savings. However, the account may be maintained in the form of term deposits.
  - FC account holder will get interest if the deposit is maintained in the form of term deposits for the period of one/three/six/twelve months at prevailing deposit rate. Accounts not specifically mentioned as term deposit (for balances not less than USD 1,000/=, Pound Sterling 500/= or equivalent in other currency lying in the accounts for minimum one month or longer) may get the interest.
  - Foreign currency deposited in this account is freely convertible into Taka. Deposited foreign currency may easily be sent abroad through banking channel. Moreover, foreign currency in cash may be taken from this account while visiting abroad (up to USD 2,000/= in the form of cash and remaining in the form of TC, Card & other currencies).
- 2. Resident Foreign Currency Deposit (RFCD) Account :**
  - Persons ordinarily resident in Bangladesh may open RFCD account with foreign exchange brought in at the time of their returns from travel abroad.
  - Resident persons may open this account at any time after their return to Bangladesh. However, amount in excess of USD 5,000/= or its equivalent brought in with declaration to customs authority in FMJ Form should be deposited in this account within 30 days of arrival. Up to USD 5,000/= or its equivalent may be deposited in this account at any time after return to Bangladesh.
  - Foreign currency deposited in this account is freely convertible into Taka. Deposited foreign currency may easily be sent abroad through banking channel. Moreover, foreign currency in cash may be taken from this account while visiting abroad (up to USD 2,000/= in the form of cash and remaining in the form of TC, Card & other currencies).
- 3. Non-Resident Foreign Currency Deposit (NFCD) Account :**
  - NFCD account may be opened in our Authorized Dealer branches by (a) Bangladeshis working/residing abroad (b) Bangladeshis having dual nationality residing abroad (c) Bangladeshi nationals serving with missions of Bangladesh in foreign countries (d) Officers/staff of the government/semi-government organizations/nationalized banks and employees of corporate body posted abroad or deputed with international and regional agencies in foreign countries against foreign currency remitted through banking channel or brought in cash.
  - NFCD account is in the nature of term deposit maturing after one month, three months, six months and one year. This account may be opened in US Dollar, Pound Sterling, Euro or Japanese Yen with a minimum deposit of USD 1,000/= or Pound Sterling 500/= or equivalent.
  - Foreign nationals/firms/investors may open this account with a minimum deposit of USD 25,000/= or its equivalent.
  - This account is interest bearing. The interest is exempted from tax.
  - Foreign currency deposited in this account is freely convertible into Taka. Deposited foreign currency may easily be sent abroad through banking channel. Moreover, foreign currency in cash may be taken from this account while visiting abroad (up to USD 2,000/= in the form of cash and remaining in the form of TC, Card & other currencies).

Eligible Bangladeshis may open such Accounts with Authorized Dealer Branches of AB Bank Limited in Bangladesh by filling-up the prescribed Application Form alongwith submission of other required documents such as photograph, photocopy of passport etc.

Eligible Bangladeshis residing abroad may send the Application Form to AD Branches of AB Bank Limited in Bangladesh along-with set of required documents duly verified and attested by Bangladesh Mission abroad, or a reputable bank or any other person known to the AD of AB Bank Limited, Bangladesh to open such accounts. Submission of Employment Certificate/ Business Registration Certificate is not necessary for opening of such accounts of Bangladeshis residing abroad.

Mentionable here that Non-resident Bangladeshi and other non-resident foreign nationals may, besides opening of private FC accounts and NFCD accounts as stated above, invest in US Dollar Premium Bond, Investment Bond and Treasury Bond (in Taka) of Bangladesh Government. In addition, investment may be made in shares/securities listed in stock exchanges through opening of Non-Resident Investor's Taka Account (NITA). Non-resident Bangladeshis may also invest in Wage Earner's Development Bond in Taka.

Bangladesh Bank website [[www.bb.org.bd](http://www.bb.org.bd)], Guidelines for Foreign Exchange Transaction, (Vol-I, Ch-13)] may be visited for additional information and relevant explanation. In addition, Authorized Dealer branches or Mr. Md. Ashiqul Islam, Officer, Retail Banking Division, Head Office, AB Bank Limited, Phone: 88-02-9560312, Cell No. 880-1722788408 Fax: 88-02-9564123, email: [ashiquil@abbank.com.bd](mailto:ashiquil@abbank.com.bd), website: [www.abbank.com.bd](http://www.abbank.com.bd) may be contacted for further details.

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