

Chattagram Samity-Dhaka holds literary confce today

Chattagram Samity-Dhaka will organise a literary conference at its office on Topkhana Road in the capital today.

The day-long programme will include discussions, screenings of documentaries on Halda natural fish breeding centre and Anderkilla, and recitation of Puthi literature, according to a press release.

Litterateurs, poets, artists and researchers from Chittagong will participate in the programme.

AL grand rally

FROM PAGE 5

to give the opposition camp a message that the people do not want caretaker government. Senior AL leaders will speak at the rally due to begin at 3:00pm.



Rickshaw-van pullers keep their three-wheelers in this way at Karwan Bazar in the capital, occupying a large portion of the road beside Karwan Bazar Park and so hampering the movement of pedestrians as well as vehicles. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

Bangladesh can't

FROM PAGE 5

Experts say the number of the Myanmar refugees living in Bangladesh will be no less than a few lakh.

In her talks to Stina, the foreign minister underlined that a durable solution for refugees and undocumented nationals from Myanmar lay in their voluntary repatriation to Myanmar and establishment of their rights in their motherland.

The government has introduced free education up to class VI, vocational skill training, computer training, and primary and secondary healthcare to prepare the Rohingyas for a productive life when they voluntarily return to their homeland, Dipu Moni said.

Stina thanked Bangladesh's government for hosting a large number of these international refugees for the last 30 years with a highly satisfactory protection regime compared to many places in the world.

She highlighted that Bangladesh's good work and best practices in hosting the refugees from Myanmar quite often go unappreciated when Bangladesh should receive commendations for maintaining peaceful refugee camps and voluntary repatriation of most of them before 2005.

Earlier in the day, Argentina Piccin, the newly appointed country representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), presented her credentials to the foreign minister.

During the meeting, Piccin praised Bangladesh for its extraordinary achievements in realising the health-related Millennium Development Goal (MDG) on infant and child mortality and MDG 5 on maternal health.

She assured that Bangladesh would be a priority country for UNFPA's new strategic plan for 2014-2017, through which the country would be allocated substantial budget to advance its health-related development agenda beyond the post-2015 development era.

Largest tea yield

FROM PAGE 5

now, said BTB General Manager Mohammad Shahjahan. "The pest infestation is negligible too. So, we are hoping a better harvest this year, perhaps the highest ever," he added.

Meanwhile, the export of tea, a major cash crop of Bangladesh, has declined over the time with an exponential increase in the domestic consumption.

A decade ago, the country used to export one third of the total tea produce, but it has come down to about five percent on an average today, said Shahjahan. The BTB official estimated that the export was far unlikely to go past five percent this year.

He ascribed the export fall to the faster growth of demand. When the domestic consumption is growing at about four percent annually, the output growth is below 1.5 percent, he said.

The official said if the production continued at the current rate, export might stop in a couple of years, which would affect the country's economy.

Last year, Bangladesh exported 1.5 million kg of tea, about four percent of the output, racking in Tk 22.23 crore. In 2007, the export stood at about 10 million kg.

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Stray incidents

FROM PAGE 3

Shamsuzzaman, vice president of Jatiyatabadi Swachchhasebak Dal, said if Ali is not returned by September 1, they will go for to ugher agitation programmes including enforcing a 72-hour long hartal.

Meanwhile, BNP, Biswanath upazila at a meeting on Monday called a

dawn-to-dusk hartal for September 3 demanding release of 92 leaders and activists of the organisation.

Rejecting bail prayers, a Sylhet court sent them to jail in a case filed for attacking police during the hartal on April 23, 2012. The hartal, a week after Ilias's disappearance, was called demanding information on the BNP leader's whereabouts.

Give evicted

FROM PAGE 5

Meanwhile, Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad expressed deep concern at the attack on the brothel.

In a statement, signed by Executive Director of ASK Sultana Kamal, ASK said, "The attack was made despite a High Court ruling in response to a writ petition by ASK that stated that resident of the brothel should not be evicted by force."

The sudden attack was inhumane and despicable because it was made without any arrangement to rehabilitate the sex workers, it added.

In another statement, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad said the attack was made despite the High Court ruling that stated the residents of the brothel should not be harassed and allowed to continue with their occupation.

On Tuesday, activists of Islah Qom Parishad allegedly stormed the brothel at Puranbazar in Madaripur and beat up those women who did not want to leave the brothel.

PM hopes to buy

FROM PAGE 3

The function marked the induction of two marine patrol aircraft, DORNIER-228 NG, procured from Germany, and commissioning of three naval ships, Bangladesh Navy Ship (BNS) Surma, built in Khulna Shipyard Limited, and BNS Nirmul and BNS Durjoy, procured from China.

Hasina said the induction was a milestone of the government's relentless efforts and good wishes to turn Bangladesh Navy into a modern, strong and capable three-dimensional force.

Pointing out the settlement of long-run maritime boundary dispute with Myanmar, she said, "We hope that the dispute with India is expected to be settled next year."

"Our sea areas are abounding with fisheries, mineral oil, natural gas and other invaluable resources. These resources are very much important for our national economy."

Hasina said advancement

of Bangladesh Navy remained stopped for seven years. After taking office, the present government adopted many short and long-term plans for building an effective naval force, which would be executed by 2030, she said.

She said BNS Bangabandhu was Bangladesh's pride. Commissioned in 2001 during the past Awami League government, the ship is playing a tremendous role in national development and rehabilitation work, she said.

She said BNS Bangabandhu already earned a good reputation from international community by taking part in exercises successfully and paying goodwill visits to many countries, including Qatar, the US, India and Sri Lanka.

Hasina recalled that the advancement of Bangladesh Navy was initiated by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"Bangabandhu, out of his realisation for a strong naval

force, expressed his determination to build a modern navy and procured two patrol craft -- Padma and Palash -- for Bangladesh Navy."

On her arrival, Hasina was received by Naval Chief Vice Admiral M Farid Habib and a Naval Aviation contingent gave her a guard of honour.

She handed over the induction order to the flying captains and unveiled their names. She then went to Chittagong Naval Berth and handed over the commissioning order to the ship captains. At that time, the ship bells rang and flags were hoisted.

Afterwards, she boarded BNS Bangabandhu and BNS Nirmul to see the weaponry.

Cabinet members, the prime minister's advisers, acting chief of Bangladesh Army, chiefs of Bangladesh Navy and Bangladesh Air Force, diplomats of different countries and senior civil and military officials were present.

People want

FROM PAGE 3

Bikolpo Dhara Bangladesh, said his party would stay beside Gonoforum in the coming days.

Nagorik Okiya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna urged the parliamentarians to resolve the crisis over the next election in the upcoming parliamentary session.

The people are passing days in fear, as they do not know whether the upcoming election will be held or the coming days will turn into nightmare, he added.

President of Krishok Sramik Janata League Kader Siddiqui said the voters were choosing between the two big political parties because no other option had been created over the years.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Rob) President ASM Abdur Rob, former state minister for information Prof Abu Sayeed, Socialist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Comrade Khalequzzaman, SHUJAN Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar, and columnist Syed Abul Maksud also spoke.

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