

Bangladesh still holds prospect for foreign investment

Says new Jica representative Mikio Hataeda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh remains in global attention as a potential destination of foreign investment but it is going through a critical period now, the new chief representative of Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) in Dhaka said yesterday.

Jica reasserts its dedication to assisting Bangladesh in exploring her enormous development potentials, said Mikio Hataeda, who has recently taken his office.

Japan, the single largest bilateral development partner of Bangladesh since the early seventies, has always offered unwavering support with technical assistance and grants strengthening the ties, he said.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) and Jica jointly organised a reception to Hataeda and farewell to the outgoing chief representative Dr Takao Toda at a city hotel.

"I swear to put all my heart and soul in assisting the people of Bangladesh," said Hataeda, who served in Asian region at Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund in 1994 and as deputy director general of South Asia Department of Jica between 2011 and 2013.

He hoped that Bangladesh would certainly overcome all her present hardships, and Jica would remain beside the people of this country in their development endeavour.

Toda became emotional while reminiscing about the past four years and seven months of his tenure in Dhaka. "I don't know how far I could help achieving the development goals but I do love this country and her people, and I will leave a part of my heart back here," he said.

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CURBING CRIME IN CAPITAL Civilians pledge to work alongside cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Citizens of the capital yesterday renewed their pledge to work with police in suppressing criminal activities in the city at the Community Police and Citizen Safety Committees Assembly, 2014.

Civilian representatives from 49 police stations of the city attended the function held at Rajarbagh Police Lines.

Presidents and general secretaries of community policing and citizen safety committees from the eight crime and operation zones of Dhaka spoke at the programme. They expressed their gratitude towards policemen for keeping Dhaka safe compared to other places during the political violence that rocked the country last year.

However, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Benazir Ahmed, speaking as the chief guest, warned the citizens that the perpetrators might return.

"We should not be complacent about them (perpetrators)"

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Traffic gridlock continues to haunt the capital's second Buriganga Bridge, connecting the two sides of the Buriganga river, which the locals blame on parking of buses and CNG-run auto-rickshaws on the bridge, plying of rickshaws on it and delays in the traffic lights turning green at both ends. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

India's river linking to harm Bangladesh

Warn environmentalists again, ask govt to be vocal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India's inter-river linking project will diminish the water flow in Bangladesh's two major rivers, the Padma and the Jamuna, harming the country's environment and economy, environmentalists said yesterday.

India initially plans to link the Ken-Betwa rivers in Madhya Pradesh, which will reduce the flow of the Ganges, they told a press conference organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN) at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

In February 2012, the Indian Supreme Court gave the go-ahead to the project that

aims to link 30 major rivers through canals and withdraw water from the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers and to flow it to India's arid states.

On January 2 this year, India's cabinet was set to approve the Ken-Betwa linking, according to The Times of India. But the Congress-led government did not do that because of its decreasing popularity, Bapa General Secretary MA Matin told The Daily Star.

He said, "Fearing that the linking would disturb the ecological balance, there was a popular pressure in India against the plans."

The Ken and Betwa rivers flowing through Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

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Fire incidents kill 1, injure 6 in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died and six people were injured in two separate fire incidents in the capital, while a girl was rescued from another fire.

An unidentified man in his early twenties was found dead in a burnt down one-roomed house in Uttara-9 on Friday night.

Alamgir Kabir, sub-inspector of Uttara (west) Police Station, said they suspect he suffocated due to the smoke.

The fire broke out at about 10:30pm at the house, which was abandoned.

Police believe the deceased was a homeless man who had wanted to spend the night at the abandoned place. The doors and windows were found locked from inside.

Neighbours doused the flames before fire fighters reached the spot and found the body.

The fire seemed to have originated from a mosquito repellent coil.

In another incident in Bhatara early yesterday, fire from a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Man commits suicide in madrasa room in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man committed suicide in a room of a madrasa in the capital's Pallabi area yesterday.

Sources at Dhaka Medical College morgue, where the autopsy was conducted, confirmed it.

The deceased, Saiful Islam Jewel, 26, was a private company official after he had been a teacher of the madrasa "Tamilul Hayat Institute".

He lived in the room on the fifth floor on an agreement with the authorities, said Principal Ali Azam.

He had been working at the company for the last six months, he added.

On information from the authorities, police recovered the body hanging from the ceiling with a muffler after breaking open the door around 10:00am, said Pallabi police Sub-inspector Kamaruzzaman.

Azam said Saiful went to bed after 11:00pm Friday and did not respond to their calls the next morning.

Woman held with 8kgs of cannabis, 100 Yaba tablets in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion arrested a woman with eight kilogrammes of cannabis, 100 Yaba tablets and over Tk 5 lakh in the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday morning.

The arrested is identified as Shahida Begum Salma, 35.

During a drive, she was arrested in her residence at a slum around 7:15am, said Lt Col KM Azad, commanding officer of Rab-2.



Dancers perform at a programme organised by the Bangladesh chapter of One Billion Rising for Justice, a global movement to end violence against women, in the capital's Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ONE BILLION RISING FOR JUSTICE Women survivors of violence urged to break silence Feb 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although now widely acclaimed at home and abroad for her performance as a former member of the national football and cricket teams, Champa Chakma did not have it easy on the way to success.

This young indigenous woman from the hill district of Rangamati had to face criticisms of her neighbours and even endure a beating once for wanting to play with her male friends.

"Overcoming many hurdles, I have reached this stage. Now I can walk holding my head high," said Champa yesterday.

She was sharing her life's story at a programme organised by the Bangladesh chapter of One Billion Rising for Justice, a global movement to end violence against women, in the capital's Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Like her, transgender activist Joya Sikder, domestic violence survivor Farjahan Rahman Shaon, tech freelancer Qurat-ul-

Ain Nazuba, visually impaired banker Farzana Akhter and acid attack survivor Nurun Nahar revealed their stories of braving all odds and finally making it through.

Shaon, a single mother, said although the law permits a woman to divorce her husband, society cannot accept it. "People of our society are not mentally prepared to accept a divorcee woman. So the women have to face problems at every single step."

"Barriers will come but one should not lose courage...Unless we change ourselves, society will not change...We have to continue our fight," said the schoolteacher.

Joya said the government recognition of the Hijra community would not solve all the problems they have been facing throughout their lives.

"We are humans too. We are also citizens of the state. Why are we looked down upon," Joya said adding, "However, time has come for us to speak out."

One Billion Rising for Justice is a global

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দেশরত্ন জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনাকে অভিনন্দন

হাজার বছরের শ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙালি জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধুর সুযোগ্য কন্যা জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনা তৃতীয় বারের মত গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের প্রধানমন্ত্রী নির্বাচিত হওয়ায় এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস্ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড-এর পরিচালনা পর্ষদ, ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষ এবং সকল কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারীদের পক্ষ হতে আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন ও শুভেচ্ছা।



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