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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

Pak general meets chiefs of 3 services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Pakistani delegation led by General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, met Bangladesh's three service chiefs in Dhaka, focusing on enhancing bilateral defence and security cooperation.

Bangladesh Army, Navy, and Air Force, in their verified social media pages, confirmed the developments.

The Pakistani general met Bangladesh's Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman at the Army Headquarters on Tuesday.

Earlier on Sunday, General Mirza met Chief of Naval Staff Admiral M Nazmul Hassan at the Naval Headquarters, and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan at the Air Force Headquarters, according to the notifications.

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A woman struggles to climb onto the footpath as the road in front of Solaiman Tower in the capital's Chawk Bazar remains dug up for over 10 days. The Dhaka South City Corporation excavated the road to install electricity lines, causing suffering to residents and pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Grassroots women leading fight for climate resilience
10 honoured as climate champions at MJF convention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sustainable development is only possible when every vulnerable and marginalised person is protected from the impacts of climate change, said Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan at an event yesterday.

She called for greater investment in micro-level adaptation initiatives, particularly in disaster-affected and river-erosion-prone areas, and stressed

the importance of integrating innovative efforts by local women entrepreneurs into national development planning.

The adviser made these remarks at a day-long convention held at the Aloki Convention Centre in Dhaka. The programme was organised by the Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) under the EmPower: Women for Climate Resilient Societies (Phase II) project, supported by UN Women Bangladesh.

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SHAMIMA RITA and KEERO ADHNAN AHMED

Discussions are underway to form a new nine-party alliance as a potential "third force" ahead of the upcoming national election, with talks reportedly involving the National Citizen Party (NCP), Gono Odhikar Parishad, Amar Bangladesh Party (AB Party), and the Gonotonto Moncho.

Multiple sources within the NCP confirmed the initiative to The Daily Star. They said the initiative aims to build a coalition outside the spheres of the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami.

"The discussion of the nine-party alliance is still at the preliminary stage," an NCP senior leader said, wishing anonymity.

"It's true, the NCP is indeed considering forming an alternative alliance. However, the situation could change before the election," said the NCP leader.

However, other NCP leaders said the party is divided on this issue, with some factions holding talks with parties like BNP and Jamaat about forming alliances or sharing election seats.

Gono Odhikar Parishad, formed by leaders of the 2018 quota reform movement, is open to an alliance with the NCP but has expressed strong reservations about its conduct.

"NCP doesn't have the maturity to lead an alliance. They are a small party with leaders who don't know how to conduct themselves," party General Secretary Rashed Khan told The Daily Star.

He said the NCP had previously proposed integrating the two parties, but the talks soured after NCP leaders made "offensive remarks," something his party "hasn't taken lightly."

Despite this, Rashed said his party is still discussing the NCP's proposed alliance, which was offered "with joint leadership."

He believes the integration of the two parties is also a possibility.

"We have a good understanding with the BNP, too. They are a big party, big enough to lead any alliance. Gono Odhikar Parishad joining an alliance under BNP's leadership is also a strong possibility," he added.

Meanwhile, the AB Party, formed by a reformist faction of Jamaat, said the proposed nine-party alliance has received "positive responses" among its members.

The party's Joint General Secretary, Nasrin Sultana Mily, said, "We, these nine parties, found ourselves to be like-minded political forces in the meetings of the consensus commission.

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A 'third force' taking shape?

Talks are underway to form an alliance among nine parties, including NCP, Gono Odhikar Parishad, AB Party, and Gonotonto Moncho (a coalition of six parties), ahead of the national election in February.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
Govt launches SOP, app to strengthen care for survivors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday launched a standard operating procedure (SOP) to guide healthcare providers in delivering medical, medico-legal, and psychological care to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Developed with support from UNFPA Bangladesh, the SOP aims to raise awareness among healthcare personnel about SGBV and its consequences, while recognising such violence as a serious public health concern, said officials.

They also said the guidelines would help doctors, nurses, midwives, and sub-assistant community medical officers understand government priorities and compliance requirements in responding to SGBV cases.

As part of the initiative, the government also introduced a mobile application titled "Clinical Management of Rape".

The app aims to improve coordination among healthcare providers, forensic experts, law enforcement, legal professionals, journalists, and social service organisations.

The digital platform is expected to address existing gaps and clarify roles and responsibilities, ensuring more cohesive and survivor-centred services.

- ➊ SOP includes protocols for hospitals, health complexes, welfare centres
- ➋ App to improve coordination among service providers, ensure survivor-centred care
- ➌ Nine ministries collaborate to streamline SGBV response roles

The launch event was organised by the Gender, NGO and Stakeholder Participation Unit (GNSPU) of the Health Economics Unit under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at the CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka.

Presenting the SOP, Mohammad Shawkat Hossain Khan, director of the Health Economics Unit, said it includes separate protocols for medical college hospitals, district hospitals, upazila health complexes, maternal and child health training institutes, mother and child welfare centres, and the Mohammadpur Fertility Services and Training Centre.

Prof Md Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for health ministry, described the SOP as a "bridging" document.

"At least nine ministries are involved, with overlapping responsibilities. Through this SOP, the roles of all relevant agencies – including doctors, police, lawyers, and the social welfare and women and children affairs departments – will become clearer," he said.

UNFPA Bangladesh Representative Catherine Breen Kamkong said, "Through the new SOP and referral protocols, we can ensure timely, compassionate, and survivor-centred care free from stigma or discrimination."

Md Saidur Rahman, secretary of the Health Services Division, stressed the need to make the SOP available in Bangla and ensure it is simple, smart, and user-friendly.

Dr Md Enamul Haque, director general of the Health Economics Unit, and Prof Dr Md Abu Jafar, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services, also spoke at the event.

China for smooth polls, deeper ties with Bangladesh

BSS, Dhaka

Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen yesterday expressed China's sincere wish for a smooth general election and continued stability in Bangladesh, reaffirming Beijing's commitment to deepening cooperation on development and modernisation.

He said China stands ready to work with Bangladesh to uphold a people-centred development philosophy and jointly explore a path to modernisation suited to each country's national realities.

Yao made the remarks while speaking at a seminar hosted by the Association of Former Ambassadors at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka.

The ambassador highlighted the enduring friendship between the two nations over the past five decades, rooted in mutual respect and win-win cooperation. "Despite changes in the international and regional landscape, our two countries have always developed friendly relations based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence," he said.

He noted that Bangladesh firmly upholds the one-China principle and supports China on matters concerning its core interests, while China respects Bangladesh's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

On economic ties, Yao said Bangladesh was the first South Asian country to join the Belt and Road Initiative, which has created nearly 600,000 jobs in the country.



With an aim to recognise and support promising agricultural students across Bangladesh, Syngenta Bangladesh Limited and The Daily Star have signed a memorandum of understanding to launch the "Proyash Agriculture Scholarship". The signing event was held at the Syngenta Bangladesh office on Sunday.

Syngenta, Star launch agriculture scholarship
150 students to be awarded in nationwide initiative

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Syngenta Bangladesh Limited and The Daily Star have signed a memorandum of understanding to launch the "Proyash Agriculture Scholarship", a nationwide initiative aimed at recognising and supporting promising agricultural students across Bangladesh.

The MoU was signed at the Syngenta Bangladesh office by Hedayer Ullah, managing director of Syngenta Bangladesh Limited, and Md Tajdin Hassan, chief business officer of The Daily Star, on Sunday.

Representatives from both organisations were present during the signing ceremony.

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Students should focus on their studies first and engage in other activities as co-curricular. Not all of you need to get involved in politics. We need to build a society where everyone focuses on their designated duties.

WAHIDUDDIN MAHMUD Planning Adviser at PRC discussion