



### New US envoy arrives

New United States ambassador to Bangladesh Harry K. Thomas, Jr arrived in Dhaka yesterday, says a press release.

## Dhaka drafting response to India's mega water diversion project

REAZ AHMAD

Bangladesh is working out its official response to India's plan to initiate an about \$200 billion mega water project to divert waters from major rivers flowing across the border to the drought-prone states of India.

country in the lower riparian," said an official source, requesting anonymity. He noted that no country has the right to unilaterally withdraw or divert waters from common rivers.



Women social and political activists hold a candlelight vigil in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan on the first day of the "South Asian Women's Court against Women and Children's Trafficking and HIV/AIDS".

## AL boycotts CPA's first meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday boycotted the first meeting of the steering committee on the conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) to be held in Dhaka in October.



This year's National Fish Fortnight comes to raise awareness of protecting local fish species. The government slapped a ban on jatka (hilsa fry) fishing, but the ban is not enough when its enforcement is lax.

## In foreign fishes, out local ones

Fish fortnight starts today

PINAKI ROY Different types of fish of foreign origin are now threatening the existence of a number of local fish. This was the observation made by the experts on the eve of the fish fortnight that will be observed from today.

## Bodies of 98 workers still in Saudi morgues

### Bangladesh embassy blames formalities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The bodies of 98 Bangladeshi workers are lying in hospital morgues across the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) as the Bangladesh government could neither arrange for their burial nor take them back home, according to The Arab News, an English daily of the Middle East.

blamed the Bangladesh government and its diplomatic mission in the KSA for the delay in the disposal of the dead bodies. Many dead Bangladeshis have been lying in the morgues of different hospitals in the KSA due to delay in the release of no-objection certificates and other relevant documents by the embassy officials, they said.

## BNP policymakers, bureaucrats split over civil service promotion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Differences have brewed between the ruling BNP policymakers and bureaucrats over the issue of promotion to the post of additional and joint secretaries. Highly placed sources said the Superior Selection Board (SSB) at an unscheduled meeting on Saturday recommended elevation of about 85 joint secretaries to additional secretary and around 62 deputy secretaries to joint secretaries.

Office (PMO), Ministry of Establishment and Cabinet Division said differences mainly surfaced over whether the 1979 batch should be promoted to additional secretary depriving a good number of qualified officials from previous batches. Some political leaders and bureaucrats preferred promotion of all officials of the administration cadre of the 1979 batch as most officials of this batch are BNP-aligned.

## BB asks NCBs to change worn-out notes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Bank yesterday directed commercial banks to post notices at all branches announcing that worn-out notes could be changed. According to a central bank circular, slightly worn-out, dirty notes and those that have not been torn into more than two pieces will be changed with an immediate full value pay.

## JS body unhappy at LGRD's snail's pace in fulfilling pledge

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The local government, rural development and cooperatives ministry is soft-peddling on the implementation of assurances it has made in the Jatiya Sangsad since October 2001, a JS body observed yesterday. While reviewing the assurances at a meeting yesterday, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Government Assurances expressed dissatisfaction at the implementation of only 22 of 98 pledges made so far.

Moulana Abdus Sobhan, chairman of the committee, told The Daily Star yesterday. The top officials of the ministry showed fund constraints as the excuse for non-implementation of the pledges. The committee asked the ministry to implement the assurances immediately so that people enjoyed their benefits.

## Tk 50 lakh medicine seized at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials yesterday seized huge quantity of contraband medicine worth about Tk 50 lakh from the cargo complex of Zia International Airport. A Gulf Airways flight, GF-458, reached the airport with the consignment from Pakistan yesterday. Roxim International, the importer, declared the 12 cartons as food item. The banned medicine was kept hidden under fresh food and chocolates. Tipped off, customs officials went to the cargo complex and seized the drugs.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 12		6-37 pm
Aug 13	5-32 am	

  

Prayer Timings		
August 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

