The Paily Star



US New envoy arrives

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

Ambassador Thomas arrived from Washington, DC, having taken introduc-tory Bangla language lessons at the Department of State's Foreign Service In stitute in prepara SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Dhaka drafting response to India's mega water diversion project

REAZ AHMAD

SHAZNEEN CASE

DHAKA TUESDAY AUGUST 12, 2003

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. "Dhaka will soon air its concern to Delhi on the latter's planned scheme of harnessing river waters by changing their natural courses. These are major common rivers on which Bangladesh has its stake as a

country in the lower riparian," said an official source, requesting anonymity.

CPD

He noted that no country has the right to unilaterally withdraw or divert waters from common rivers. Sources said Bangladesh would

also take up the issue, if need be, with international funding agencies provided India goes ahead with the project, dubbed as the world's largest water work, and seeks financial assistance from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

he Middle East

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

Members of the Bangladeshi

community and social organisations

India plans to divert vast quantities of water from major rivers including the Ganges and Brahmaputra, threatens the livelihood of more than 100 million people downstream in Bangladesh, British daily The Guardian reported on July 24

Up to one-third of the water flow of the Brahmaputra and other rivers could be diverted to southern Indian rivers to provide 173 billion cubic metres of water a year to SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

blamed the Bangladesh govern-ment and its diplomatic mission in

the KSA for the delay in the disposal

been lying in the moraues of differ

ent hospitals in the KSA due to delay

in the release of no-objection certifi

cates and other relevant docu-

ments by the embassy officials, they

Mohammad Ali Akbar, charge

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Many dead Bangladeshis have

of the dead bodies.



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

BB asks NCBs JS body unhappy at LGRD's snail's pace

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The Bangladesh Bank yesterday

boy-A L cotts **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

The AL boycotted the meeting protesting the inclusion of two nonmembers of parliament and the party's not getting the 'due share' of the committee's membership.

The first meeting was held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan, with Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar in the chair. The committee reviewed the preparations for the October 4-12 conference. So far 156 parliamentarians from 54 national parliaments are expected to attend the conference.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid lodged his party's protest with the speaker and demanded that the two non- parliamentarians be dropped from the committee. He also asked for his party's rightful share of the commit tee's membership.

"We were not offered our share of membership. We were entitled to have at least five members (proportionately) in the 25-member committee," Abdus Shahid, chief whip of the opposition, told The Daily Star vesterday.

Haris Chowdhury and Mosaddeq Ali Falu, political secretaries to the prime minister, were made mem bers of the committee

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

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 Internationa Airport

A Gulf Airways flight, GF-458 reached the airport with the consignment from Pakistan vesterday.

Roxim International, the mporter, 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

The consignment included eorobe



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, BNP policymakers, out local ones Fish fortnight starts today

PINAKI ROY

Different types of fish of foreign ening the

fish are now endangered out of 267 sweet water species. The International Union for tion of Nature (IU

bureaucrats split over civil service promotion

Bodies of 98 workers

still in Saudi morgues

Bangladesh embassy

blames formalities

to change worn-out notes

directed commercial banks to post

notices at all branches announcing that worn-out notes could be changed According to a central bank

Moulana Abdus Sobhan, chairman of the committee, told The Daily Star vesterday opment and cooperatives ministry is The top officials of the ministry showed fund constraints as the excuse for non-implementation of the pledges.

in fulfilling pledge SHAKHAWAT LITON

The local government, rural devel-

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.

They hold indiscriminate fishing in open water bodies and water pollution responsible for the vulnerability and dwindling of the local fish population. Over the years, 14 foreign fish species have filled up the vacuum.

Prof. Shahadat Ali of the zoology department of Dhaka University said the natural breeding places of local fish are being disturbed due to

snapping of linkage between the open water bodies and rivers. "Fish species from abroad including African catfish are now taking over the local market," noted Prof. Shahadat.

As many as 54 local species of

observed in a report that at least 11 species of local fish are critically endangered and facing near extinction

The critically endangered species are Boga Labeo (Bhangon Bata), Nandi Labeo, Pangusia Labeo (Ghora Muikkha), Olive Barb (Sor Puti), Tor Mahseer (Moha shol), Ritha, Garua Bacha, Batchawa Bacha, Pangas, Gangetic Goonch (Bagair), Sisor catfish and Barca snake head (Tila shol). But the report does not say how many species have disappeared already.

According to the officials of the department of fisheries, there are 40.47 lakh hectres of open water bodies in the country like haors, canals, beels and other marshy а n d , SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Differences have brewed between the ruling BNP policymakers and bureaucrats over the issue of promotion to the post of additional and ioint 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 secretarles.

They said the 85 officials for the post of additional secretary were recommended from the 1973, 1974, 1977 and 1979 batches and 62 others for the post of joint secretary mostly from the 1981 batch. Sources at the Prime Minister's

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 BNPaligned.

But others opposed such wholesale promotion from a particular batch, arguing that such a move would deprive many eligible officials of 1973, 1974 and 1977 batches and create a rancour in the civil service.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

notes and those that have not been torn into more than two pieces will be changed with an immediate full value pay.

In case of notes that are badly worn, burnt or of which less than three-fourths exists, customers will get the new notes only after respective banks receive them from the central bank.

Together with this the customers will have to pay the postal and courier charges for the exchange, the circular added.

Those who come up with forged or built-up notes will be handed over to law-enforcers.

The central bank has also prepared a guideline for banks on the procedure for changing notes with the central bank once they receive them from customers.

soft-pedalling 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.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and the minister, state minister and former deputy minister of the ministry made the assurances in the first seven sessions of the present parliament until May this year.

"With so many assurances standing unimplemented, it will be difficult to realise those in near future if things move this way,'

The committee asked the ministry to implement the assurances immediately so that people enjoyed their benefits.

The committee also decided to ask all ministries to send reports on progress in implementation of their assurances every three months.

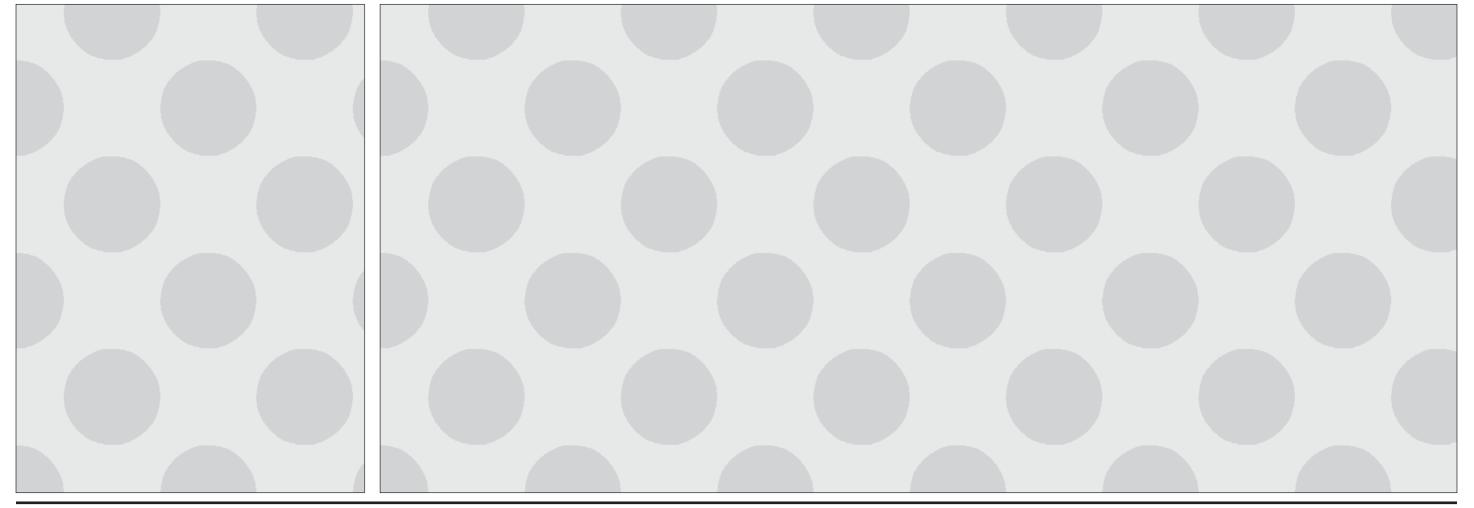
"We will monitor realisation of the promises by all other ministries,' Mostafa Kamal Pasha member of the committee, told The Daily Star yesterday

The officials of the ministry told the meeting that in the current parliament the prime minister gave only one assurance -- reintroduc SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

tablets, Maleril tablets, Gynokocit tablets, Proleoton Depo injections, Weath Athvan tablets and Manostrojen injections.

	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			



EDITOR: MAHFUZ ANAM-Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd., 229 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1205, 8124955, 812455, 812455, 812455, 812455, 812455, 812455, 812455, 812455, 812455, 812455, 812455, 812455, 8124555, 8124555, 8124555, 8124555, 8124555, 8124555