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People's Right to Know

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## Dhaka, Kathmandu Judiciary beyond agree on common river sharing plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Kathmandu agreed in principle to formulate a common strategy for sharing the water of common rivers and also to initiate a dialogue for drafting and signing a free trade agreement (FTA) to foster bilateral economic relations.

The agreements were reached after a one-hour discussion between the two heads of government, held at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. Visiting Nepalese Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia led their respective sides in the meeting.

Later, briefing newspersons on the meeting, Foreign Secretary Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury said the prime ministers discussed the river-linking programmes of India and were of the opinion that there should be a tripartite approach, involving Bangladesh, Nepal and India, to resolve conflicts and issues over share of common river waters.

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Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her Nepalese counterpart Surya Bahadur Thapa talk at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

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# poor's reach: CJ

Chief Justice KM Hasan yesterday said the judiciary is easily accessible to the rich but beyond the reach of

"Providing legal aid is not merely a right to the poor but a moral obligation of a welfare state," he told a workshop jointly organised by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and Canadian International Development Agency

The chief justice said the poor are deprived of the benefit of the legal system due to their financial insolvency, ignorance and backwardness.

Held at the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) auditorium, the workshop was presided over by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed.

Among others, Law Secretary Mohammad Asaduzzaman, Director of Legal Aid Nasrin Begum, Cida Resident Director James Baker and Robert Beadle of the Canadian High Commission also spoke.

#### Justice Hasan said the judiciary will be in danger if legal aid could not be ensured for the poor and disadvantaged section of society. He said the success of the legal SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

### Winter vegetables doubly dearer

MONJUR MAHMUD

Winter vegetables are selling at almost double the price in December last year.

Supply of seasonal vegetables remains poor unlike previous winters, pushing prices unusually high, traders said.

Indian tomato is plentiful in the market and locally produced sweet pea is still not available while potato s selling at a premium rate.

Officials of the Department of Agricultural Marketing said heavy rains in October damaged a large portion of the crop fields. "The farmers had to prepare the land again and sow the vegetables, which

delayed the arrival of winter vegetables this year," said a DAM official.

According to an estimate, vegetable production will be at least 25 per cent less than that of the last season and the prices will remain high for another few weeks, the official mentioned.

Local tomato should have flooded the market by this time but its supply is still very poor. "Indian tomato is selling at Tk 40 a kg and the small local variety at Tk 32 and green tomato at Tk 20 per kg," said a trader at the Karwan Bazar kitchen market in the city yesterday. Tomato price ranged between Tk 14 and Tk 16 per kgin December last year.

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### Pakistan ready to drop referendum demand on Kashmir

Pakistan is ready to put aside its demand for a referendum in the disputed territory of Kashmir, President Pervez Musharraf said.

Pakistan's 50-year position has been that a referendum should decide if the divided territory become part of Pakistan or India. The two nuclear powers have

fought two of their three wars over

United Nations resolutions calling for a referendum to resolve the

dispute. "We are for UN resolutions, President Musharraf said in an interview with the Reuters news

"However, now we have left that aside.

"If we want to resolve this issue, both sides need to talk to each other SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

### Acid attackers slip thru' legal loopholes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

NGO leaders yesterday accused police of recording cases of acid attacks under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act for financial gains, as the act has multiple loopholes for easy release of the accused.

On-duty police officers tend to bypass the Acid Control Act that does not provide easy bails, the NGO (non-governmental organisation) leaders told a meeting in an allegation brushed aside by law enforcers, who attended the discussion.

"Victims themselves file the first information reports under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act. We have nothing to do with that," a police officer said.

The meeting of National Acid Control Committee at the home ministry, with Home Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury in the chair, focussed on production, import, transpiration, stock, sale, use and misuse of acid and countervailing

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## First US fatality after Saddam's capture

REUTERS, Baghdad

Iraqi guerrillas killed a US soldier in an ambush in Baghdad, the US military said yesterday, as two assassinations underlined fears that internal political divisions could erupt into widespread bloodletting.

The soldier's death on Wednesday night was the first combat fatality suffered by US troops since news on Sunday of the capture of ousted Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, and the 199th since Washington declared major combat

over on May 1. A US spokeswoman said a soldier from the 1st Armored Division died in an ambush in the al-Karradah neighborhood of Baghdad at 10:30 p.m. (1930 GMT) on Wednesday. Another soldier and an Iraqi translator were wounded.

US forces swept into the town of

Samarra for a second day to flush out guerrillas from the so-called Sunni triangle in northern and central Iraq where Saddam had his power base. 86 people have been arrested in the past 48 hours.

Two brigades have encircled Samarra, some 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, cutting it off from the outside world while soldiers from a third brigade make house-tohouse searches and scour shops and junkyards.

US forces seized 200 AK-47 assault rifles and bomb-making material and arrested five people including an arms dealer, the US military said in a statement.

American soldiers returned fire at a car after coming under attack, killing one person, the military said. In a separate incident, US troops opened fire on a car that was

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The Daily Star

The Bangaldesh Business Award Ceremony the Night of the Who's Who will be held on March 19, 2004 honouring the Highest Achievers in the world of business.

The Nomination procedure is about to begin...

Sistemas Serven of the Char. The nominee will be selected for his/her leadership, financial performance, ersonal qualities, managerial skills and contributing to Bangladesh's development. In financial performance, the orninee must have made outstanding contribution to his/her organization. In case of a public company, he/she must ave contributed to a substantial increase in the returns on shareholders' funds. In case of a private company of sole ropprietorship, he/she must have contributed to an improvement in return on capital invested. Personal qualities will clude integrity, enterpreneural abilities and personal leadership. Managerial skills will depend on depth of sanagement, adaptability, tenacity, inhovation, productivity, creativity and good labour management.

Internating Woman in Surmer The nominee must be an entrepreneur who has proven her capabilities o successfully establish and run a business on her own. She must be a person of integrity and tenacity and he uccess should be a source of inspiration for others. She must be an example to others that women can be successful business against all odds that they are faced with. Focus would also be given on her dynamism, innovation elemination, adaptability and depth of management.

Enlargace of the CPan Open to small and medium-sized companies, the nominee will be based on innovation, financial performance, productivity, company management and contribution to the community. Innovation will mean success of the company either in products, services or new markets. In financial performance-productivity, the enterprise must have made outstanding growth in profit. Company management will focus on creative management style in developing harmonious relations within the organisation.

Soint Venture Sinterprise of the Year Innovation will mean the success of the company in innovation of either products, services or new markets. Financial performance or productivity the company must have an outstanding and sustainable growth in profit. The life span of the company will be taken into consideration in relation to profit track records. The company must also have clean banking and tax records. In the area of company management the organisation must display an effective management style and have a viable organisational structure. The company must have a track record of establishing and maintaining harmonous relations within the organisation and set examples for the industry. In contribution to Bangladesh's development the company should have made positive contribution to

### Rules of Eligibility

The awardee should be involved in private business enterprise and must be a Bangladeshi citizen or ordinarily resident in Bangladesh. Helshe must have clean banking and tax records. There is no restriction on age or race. In case of Enterprise Award, only Bangladeshi companies will be considered with published balanced sheets. he joint venture company should have at least one Bangladeshi citizen or enterprise as partner. It must have clean

An independent eleven-member jury panel comprising of leading intellectuals, business persons, academicians, swyers, financial experts and eminent personalities with high social standing, credibility and prestige including OEO's of the two sponsoring organisations shall select the winners.

The decisions of the Jury shall be final and binding and cannot be contested.

Please fill the attached form and send it to:

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### The Highest Achievers: 2000, 2001, 2002

### Susmess Person of the Year

Samson H. Chowdhury, Chairman, Square Group, 2000 Anisur Rahman Sinha, Chairman, Opex Group, 2001 Syed Monzur Elahi, Chairman, Apex Group, 2002

Questanding (Woman in Stusines

Salina Akther, Proprietor, Aakor, 2000 Rehana Kashem, Proprietor, Saalrong Handicrafts & Fashion, 2001 Geeteara Safiya Choudhury, Chairman & Managing Director, Adcomm Ltd., 2002

### Emerprise of the Pear

Concord Engineers & Construction Ltd., 2000 Rahimafrooz (Bangladesh) Ltd., 2000 Otobi Ltd., 2001

Micro Electronics Ltd., 2002

Some Fonture Enterprise of the Fear Grameenphone Ltd., 2002

