

## Article in Pak daily says Build Ganges barrage to resolve Farakka problem

The Nation — a leading English daily of Pakistan has published an article in its weekly magazine under the caption 'The Farakka Dispute: History and Possible Solution' depicted the background of the construction of the barrage during Pakistan days, according to a message received in the city. reports UNB.

The article mentioned that the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission was established to develop their common water resources on cooperative basis.

Bangladesh's proposal was that the dry season flow of the Ganges should be augmented by the construction of storage reservoirs on the Ganges-Himalayan tributaries with the cooperation of a third country Nepal.

The article further quoted that the Indian proposal for augmenting the dry season flow of the Ganges consist of a barrage across the river Brahmaputra and a canal to take water from the river through the northern area of Bangladesh to

take full advantage of the situation and won from Bangladesh its acceptance that India has a right to use the Farakka barrage without concluding a permanent treaty to share the Ganges waters with Bangladesh.

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Some resident students of city's Eden Women's University College find themselves on the streets after they were forced to vacate their dormitories, following a sudden decision by the authority yesterday to close the college *sine die*. — Star photo

## Stockholm congress concludes today

### Dhaka calls for poverty alleviation to end sexual exploitation of children

Bangladesh has called for taking concerted steps for the alleviation of poverty at national and global level to end both commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation of child, reports UNB.

The issue of commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation is linked with poverty. State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Mohammad Hossain told a conference in Stockholm on Wednesday, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

Commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation of children is a direct violation of the rights of children. Children's rights are human rights. Human rights are children's rights, Dr Hossain said in the congress.

Saying that men, women and children are being deprived of universal human rights, he mentioned that some criminals take advantage of the children's impoverished position for commercial sexual exploitation and sex tourism.

"We would, therefore, urge the participants at this congress to look beyond the commercial dimension of the problem, if the rights of these most deprived children are to be restored," he told the congress.

He said, since the field employees are posted in the thanas health complexes, they have good communication with the common people in the rural areas.

They can play a vital role in making the people conscious about health care, the Health Minister said, applauding the role of field workers in eradicating small pox, making EPI programme a success and in preventing other diseases.

Dr Faras Uddin Ahmad said this while speaking at the guest at a discussion on 'career planning and human resource development', held in the Haji Mohsin College auditorium here.

Principal of the college, Prof Harun-ar-Rashid presided over the discussion while Prof MMK Akbar Hossain and college student ASM Ahsan Habib took part in it.

The state minister called upon all to follow the ideals of the Prophet to remove terrorism, violence and other vices from society.

humanity. We must stop it and protect the rights of children at every level," he said.

The state minister informed the congress that a number of laws including the Women and Children Repression Act 1995 exist in Bangladesh to combat violence and sexual exploitation of children, both commercial and non-commercial.

Recommending encouraging

ment of religious and moral value, Dr Hossain said an active and effective gender perspective should also be promoted in all policies and programmes.

Development of support programmes for girls, adolescents and young women, who have been victims of sexual exploitation, is another issue that should also be addressed.

He also hoped that local, regional and international efforts would be strengthened in overcoming the problems of sexual exploitation of children, both commercial and non-commercial.

The issues of commercial sexual exploitation, sex tourism and child pornography not prominently exist in the country, he said. "Of late, however, children are being trafficked out of the country and are sexually exploited in foreign countries."

He also pointed out that children are abused sexually outside the commercial context, particularly in families and homes, saying that these are also equally serious in most societies and countries.

"We would, therefore, urge the participants at this congress to look beyond the commercial dimension of the problem, if the rights of these most deprived children are to be restored," he told the congress.

He said this while addressing a day-long seminar on "The ideals of Hazrat Muhammad (SM) in removing terrorism and corruption," arranged by Al Kausar Parishad in the Islamic Foundation auditorium in the city.

The state minister said the Prophet (SM) was not only a preacher of religion, but also a great politician, organiser and military leader.

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