

Text of Indo-Bangla water-sharing agreement

TREATY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH ON SHARING OF THE GANGA / GANGES WATERS AT FARAKKA.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH.

DETERMINED to promote and strengthen their relations of friendship and good neighbourliness.

INSPIRED by the common desire of promoting the well-being of their peoples.

Being desirous of sharing by mutual agreement the waters of the international rivers flowing through the territories of the two countries and of making the optimum utilisation of the water resources of their region in the fields of flood management, irrigation, river basin development and generation of hydro-power for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the two countries.

RECOGNISING that the need for making an arrangement for sharing of the Ganga / Ganges waters at Farakka in a spirit of mutual accommodation and the need for a solution to the long-term problem of augmenting the flows of the Ganga / Ganges are in the mutual interests of the peoples of the two countries.

BEING desirous of finding a fair and just solution without affecting the rights and entitlements of either country other than those covered by this Treaty or establishing any general principles of law or precedent.

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE - I
The quantum of waters agreed to be released by India to Bangladesh will be at Farakka.

ARTICLE - II
(i) The sharing between India and Bangladesh of the Ganga / Ganges water at Farakka by ten day periods from the 1st January to the 31st May every year will be with reference to the formula at Annexure I and an indicative schedule giving the implications of the sharing arrangement under Annexure-I is at Annexure II.

(ii) The indicative schedule at Annexure II, as referred to in sub para (i) above, is based on 40 years (1949-1988) 10 day period average availability of water at Farakka. Every effort would be made by the upper riparian to protect flows or water at Farakka as in the 40-years average availability as mentioned above.

(iii) In the event flow at Farakka falls below 50,000 cusecs in any 10-day period, the two governments will enter into immediate consultations to make adjustments on an emergency basis, in accordance with the principles of equity, fair play and no harm to either party.

ARTICLE - III
The water released to Bangladesh at Farakka under Article-I shall not be reduced below Farakka except for reasonable uses of waters, not exceeding 200 cusecs, by India between Farakka and the point on the Ganga / Ganges where both its banks are in Bangladesh.

ARTICLE - IV
A Committee consisting of representatives nominated by the two Governments in equal numbers (hereinafter called the Joint Committee) shall be constituted following the signing of this Treaty. The Joint Committee shall set up suitable teams at Farakka and Hardinge Bridge to observe and record at Farakka the daily flow below Farakka Barrage, in the Feeder Canal, and



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a joint press conference at the Bigyan Bhavan in New Delhi yesterday after the signing of water treaty. Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda is on her right and Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad on her left.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina being received by LGRD and Cooperative Minister Zillur Rahman at the Zia International Airport yesterday on her return home from New Delhi.

at the Navigation Lock, as well as at the Hardinge Bridge.

ARTICLE - V
The Joint Committee shall decide its own procedure and method of functioning.

ARTICLE - VI
The Joint Committee shall submit to the two Governments all data collected by it and shall also submit a yearly report to both the Governments. Following submission of the reports the two Governments will meet at appropriate levels to decide upon such further actions as may be needed.

ARTICLE - VII
The Joint Committee shall be responsible for implementing the arrangements contained in this Treaty and examining any difficulty arising out of the implementation of the above arrangements and of the operation of Farakka Barrage. Any difference or dispute arising in this regard, if not resolved by the Joint Committee, shall be referred to the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission. If the difference or the dispute still remains unresolved, it shall be referred to the two Governments which shall meet urgently at the appropriate level to resolve it by mutual discussion.

ARTICLE - VIII
The two Governments recognise the need to cooperate with each other in finding a solution to the long-term problem of augmenting the flows of the Ganga / Ganges during the dry season.

ARTICLE - IX
Guided by the principles of equity, fairness and no harm to either party, both the Governments agree to conclude water sharing Treaties / Agreements with regard to other common rivers.

ARTICLE - X
The sharing arrangement under this Treaty shall be reviewed by the two Governments at five years interval or earlier, as required by either party and needed adjustments, based on principles of equity, fairness and no harm to either party made thereto, if necessary. It would be open to either party to seek the first review after two years to assess the impact and working of the sharing arrangement as contained in this Treaty.

ARTICLE - XI
For the period of this Treaty, in the absence of mutual agreement on adjustments following reviews as mentioned in Article X, India shall release downstream of Farakka Barrage, water at a rate not less than 90 % (ninety per cent) of Bangladesh's share according to the formula referred to in Article II, until such time as mutually agreed flows are decided upon.

ARTICLE - XII
This Treaty shall enter into force upon signatures and shall remain in force for a period of thirty years and it shall be renewable on the basis of mutual consent.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by the respective Governments, have signed this Treaty.
DONE at New Delhi 12th December, 1996 in Hindi, Bangla and English languages. In the event of any conflict between the texts, the English shall prevail.

Signed: (H D DEVE GOWDA) PRIME MINISTER, REPUBLIC OF INDIA. Signed: (SHEIKH HASINA) PRIME MINISTER, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH.

ANNEXURE - I

Availability at Farakka	Share of India	Share of Bangladesh
70,000 cusecs or less	50%	50%

70,000 - 75,000 cusecs	Balance of flow	35,000 cusecs
75,000 cusecs or more	40,000 cusecs	Balance of flow

Subject to the condition that India and Bangladesh each shall receive guaranteed 35,000 cusecs of water in alternate three 10-day periods during the period March 1 to May 10.

ANNEXURE II

Schedule
(Sharing of waters at Farakka between January 01 and May 31 every year)

If actual availability corresponds to average flows of the period 1949 to 1988 the implication of the formula in Annex-I for the share of each side is

Period	Average of actual flow (cusecs)	India's share (cusecs)	Bangladesh's share (cusecs)
1949-1988			
Jan			
1-10	107,516	40,000	67,516
11-20	97,673	40,000	57,673
21-31	90,154	40,000	50,154
Feb			
1-10	86,323	40,000	46,323
11-20	82,839	40,000	42,839
21-28	79,106	40,000	39,106
March			
1-10	74,419	39,419	35,000
11-20	68,931	33,931	35,000
21-31	64,688	35,000	29,688
April			
1-10	63,180	28,180	35,000
11-20	62,633	35,000	27,633
21-30	60,992	25,992	35,000
May			
1-10	67,251	35,000	32,251
11-20	73,560	38,560	35,000
21-31	181,834	40,000	41,834



Children participating in a drawing competition organised by the Shishu Academy in the city yesterday in observance of the Silver Jubilee of Victory Day. — Star photo



Artists rendering song at a Victory Day programme at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday organised by the Sammilito Sangskritik Jote. — Star photo

JU convocation Jan 5

By JU Correspondent
The first-ever convocation of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will be held on January 5, 1997, official sources said. The date has been finalised after consultation with President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed who is also the chancellor of the university.

The Vice Chancellor Prof. Amirul Islam Chowdhury is scheduled to hold meetings with the teachers, officers and employees on December 21 and with the students on December 19 to discuss various matters relating to the convocation.



Bangladesh Chhatra League workers waiting outside the Zia International Airport in the city to receive Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who returned home yesterday after signing water treaty in New Delhi. — Star photo

Metropolitan Shahabuddin at BMA parade Country needs disciplined, well-organised army

BHATIARI, Chittagong, Dec 12: President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed today said that in spite of mounting anti-war mentality all over the world, "we need a disciplined and well-organised army for the preservation of our national sovereignty," reports BSS.

"A powerful army is a symbol of independence and sovereignty," he said.

The President was speaking at the President's Parade marking the commissioning of the Gentlemen Cadets of the 35th BMA Long Course and the 14th Short Service Commission Special Course at the Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA) here this morning.

President Shahabuddin, who is also the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, said the army as an well-organised force could play a vital role in furthering "our development process which we could not

Silver Jubilee of V-day Army, Navy, Air force programmes

Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force have drawn up elaborate programmes to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of Independence, reports UNB.

On December 14, military hospitals throughout the country will arrange voluntary blood donation programmes.

Special prayers will be offered at the martyrs' graves at different cantonments and training areas seeking divine blessing for salvation of the departed souls.

On the Victory Day, the combined ceremonial parade will be held under the arrangement of Bangladesh Army at the National Parade Square.

Members of the Armed Forces will begin their victory day programmes with offering special munajat after Fajr prayers at all mosques at army garrisons and naval ships as well as BAF bases for the progress and prosperity of the country.

On the day, improved diet will be provided in all military hospitals.

The army band will play in the Osmany Memorial Hall area from 12:20 pm. In the evening, an army troupe will present patriotic and folk dances at the National Stadium-1 from 7:30 pm while army bands will stage a spectacular display at the same venue from 8 pm.

Besides taking part in the combined parade, Bangladesh Navy will keep a number of ships, including two big ones, BNS Umar Farooq and BNS Saikat, open to visitors at Sadarghat in Dhaka and the naval jetty in Chittagong as well as in Narayananj, Barisal and Mongla.

achieve even after 25 years of our independence."

He said that the Bangladesh Army which has a great and revolutionary tradition, came into existence through the Liberation War.

The contribution of the members of the army are written in golden letters in the history, the President said and added that the nation recall the members of the army, who sacrificed their lives in the War of Liberation, with respect.

Referring to the army's role in maintaining law and order during the general elections held in 1991 and this year for the continuation of the democratic process, the President said "the army is now well-organised and disciplined."

He said the present government was determined to make the army well-equipped and powerful in spite of limited resources.

The President said that the members of the armed forces are combating terrorist activities at Chittagong Hill Tracts and maintaining law and order there. In this context, he mentioned the commendable job of Captain Ahsan and Lieutenant Mushfiq who set examples of patriotism by sacrificing their lives when they were on duty.

The president mentioned the glorious performance of the members of the army in the United Nations missions abroad and said the 'have earned laurel for the country.'

Referring to the contribution of the Father of the Nation

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the establishment of the military academy at Mainamati in Comilla, he said that he realised the importance of a military academy for the war ravaged country. Within six years of its establishment, the academy achieved national standard as recognition of its training efficiency and as symbol of national trust.

The president said the then president and valiant freedom fighter Ziaur Rahman accorded the academy with this rare honour. "I recall the contribution of these two late leaders with respect," he said. The President observed with happiness that the BMA, today, has earned reputation at home and abroad as a symbol of national pride.

Earlier, President Shahabuddin reviewed the smartly turned-out parade and took salute at the impressive march past.

Battalion Senior Under Officer Shams Mohammad Mamun was adjudged the best all round cadet and was awarded the coveted Sword of Honour. Gentleman Cadet Muhammad Kamrul Hassan received the Chief of Army Staff Gold Medal for the best performance in the military subjects.

Meanwhile, Company Senior Under Officer Muhammad Ehsanul Haq was given the Osmany Gold Medal for the best academic feat. Hamid Company received the BMA Colour for the winter term. They were adjudged the champion company on the basis of different inter-company competitions.

Call for proper policy to protect environment

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called for appropriate policy programmes to protect environment and alleviate poverty in view of the increased population, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) jointly organised the day-long seminar titled "Population and environmental dynamics, poverty and quality of life in Bangladesh."

Inaugurating the seminar Prof A Majeed Khan said population and environment in the context of the country's socio-economic situation is a very critical issue.

"Population needs some basic necessities which have to be exploited out of the nature but our increased population have to meet their necessities keeping the environment protected as environmental degradation is a threat to human life itself," he said.

Dr Khan laid emphasis on promoting education, dissemination of knowledge for population control, environmental

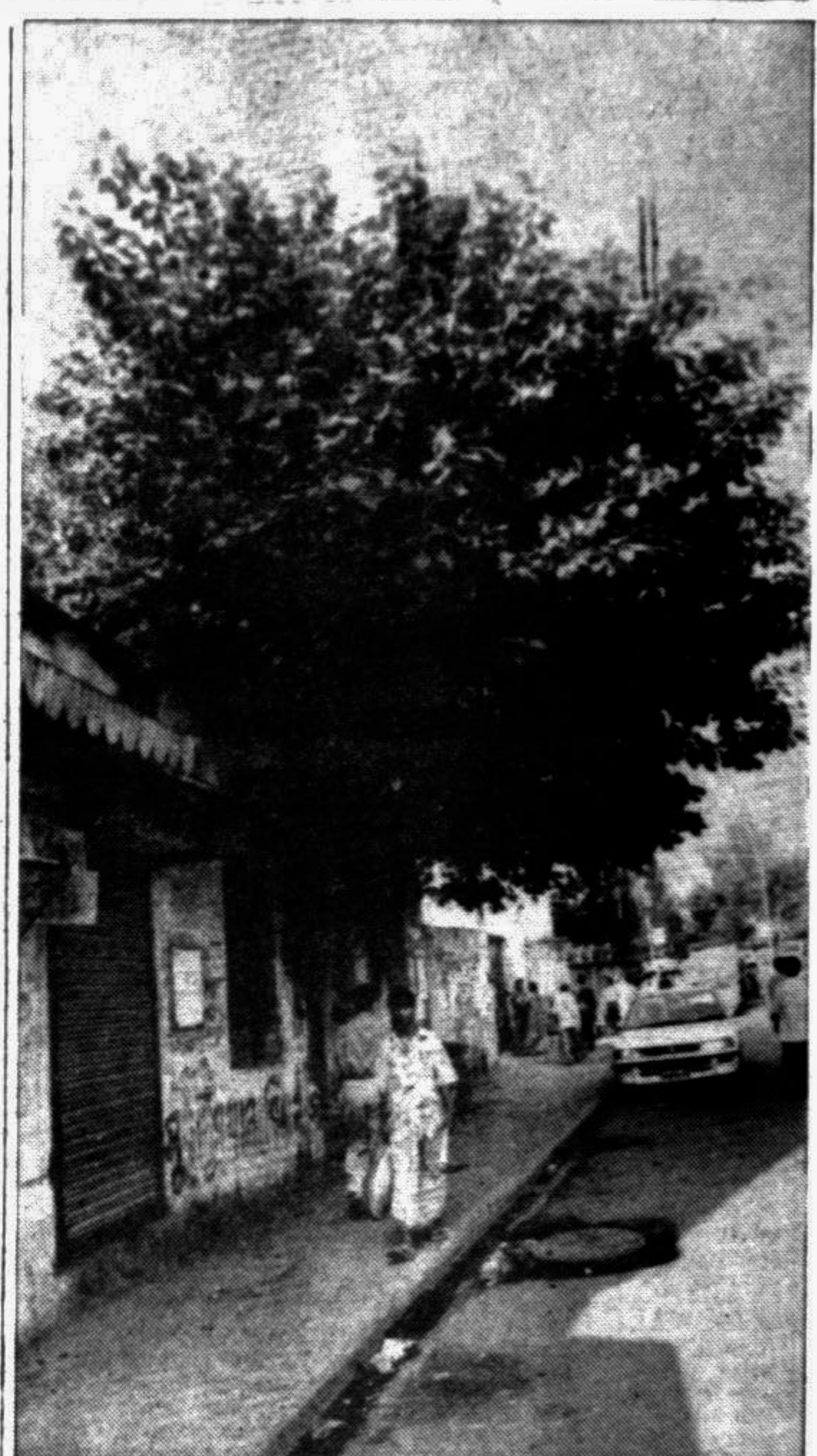
protection and eradication of poverty.

Acting Director General of BIDS Dr M R Khan, who chaired the function, said the key-links between population, environment and development process can best be assessed in the context of "sustainable development" as defined by the World Commission on Environment and Development.

He said the basic linkage of population, development and environment is that every increase in human population "entails a minimum requirement of food and other goods and services."

Dr Khan said sustained high population growth rate coupled with inadequate policy programmes means further environmental degradation such as deterioration in the quality and supply of fresh water, depletion of renewable sources of energy, deforestation, and deterioration and loss of the productive soil.

UNFPA resident representative Alain P. Mouchiroud also spoke on the occasion.



A banyan tree grows on the roof of a classroom of 84-year-old St Francis Xavier Girls' School in the Municipal Road at Laxmibazar. But the school authorities find it difficult to remove the tree to refurbish the classroom. Several attempts have so far been thwarted by a group of locals, who claim that the classroom belongs to an adjacent mosque. The mosque authorities want the room to expand the shopping complex of the mosque, the school authorities claim. Recently, musclemen threatened the authorities as they tried to remove the tree. Workmen engaged by the school were threatened and their axes and other equipment were taken away, school management said. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

B Chy demands reinstatement of 10 Shishu hospital physicians

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury has expressed surprise at the sudden termination of 10 physicians of the Dhaka Shishu Hospital, reports UNB.

In a statement Wednesday he said these physicians with two and a half years' training had been in service for one year, and all of them were appointed as per rule.

Prof Chowdhury said, "I am astonished and hurt at the sacking of these young doctors, though each of them has good ACR."

"It would be unfortunate if this was done on political ground," he said adding, "this demands immediate rectification."

Prof B Chowdhury, himself a physician, said if this termination came about as part of politicisation, it would be most unfortunate for the country and be a direct obstacle to building up future child specialists.

Expressing the hope that good sense would prevail upon among the authorities concerned, he urged the Health Minister to cancel the termination order.