VOL. VII NO. 78 REGD. NO. DA 781

NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.

The Baily Star



Low flow at Farakka, says Indian team

By Staff Correspondent

The Indian side at the official level meeting here yesterday told Bangladesh that sufficient water could not be released due to lack of adequate flow of water at Farakka point. according to Water Ministry sources.

The meeting between a twomember Indian delegation and senior officials from Bangladesh side began at the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) office. The meeting is due to continue today.

The Indian officials said that due to slow melting of ice in the Himalayas, withdrawal of water at the upper reaches and less rainfall, water could not be released as per the Ganges water accord, the sources said.

The Bangladesh side at the meeting informed that the figures so far available from the four monitoring sites -Farakka point, the feeder canal, the navigation lock and those collected from Hardinge Bridge point on several days during each of the 10-day cycles showed a significant drop in the availability of water on the Bangladesh side.

See Page 12 Col 4

Main pump of GK Project closed

The main pump of the GK Project was closed yesterday since there is no demand for water at present to raise seedlings, a press release of the Water Development Board (WDB) said in Dhaka, reports

The main pump of the project was opened by Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak on March 9 with the beginning of the Kharif-I season.

The pump remained operative and supplied water to the farmers for raising seedlings of the crops, the press release said adding: The pump was closed at 5 pm yesterday since there is no demand for water at present to raise seedlings.

The press release said if necessary the pump will start functioning again from April 8 on the basis of demand for water from the Farmers' Samity at field level.

It said the water level of the Padma is adequate for the operation of the pump. There is no problem to keep the pump operational during the current Kharif-I season, it said.

PM's directives to solve city's waterlogging, ease traffic jam

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned to solve the city's waterlogging problem and take all possible steps to ease traffic congestion, reports

Giving directives at an emergency meeting at her office, the Prime Minister said that waterlogging and traffic iam were causing great difficulty to the city dwellers, particularly in the rainy season.

Reviewing the progress of ongoing steps in this regard, the Prime Minister emphasised the

See Page 12 Col 4 Inside Today

Article

Water Resources Development: A Regional

Rationale by Syed Muhammad Hussain Page 4

Focus

Emerging infectious diseases in South-East Asia region Page 5

Supplements

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 3-page supplement on Textile & Spinning Mills' on Pages 13-15 and one page supplement on World Health Day on Page 16

Business

Bangladesh ready for private sector investment in power generation

DSE index registers 27-point rise Pages 6,7

Bangabandhu murder case

3 specific charges against 20

By Staff Correspondent

Hearing on framing of charges in the Bangabandhu murder case which began yesterday at the court of District and Sessions Judge Dhaka, was adjourned till 10:30 am today. During yesterday's proceedpleaded for adjournment.

ings, the judge, Kazi Golam Rasul, also ordered for joint briefing for the media by both the defence and prosecution counsels to avoid distortion of news. The charge-framing was earlier deferred twice by the

S Asian Growth Quadrangle

7-point objective

announced

BNP warns of massive

street protests after Eid

enforcers.

tially, he added.

Special Public Prosecutor Serajul Huq read out the charges brought against the 20 accused in the case. The pro-

ceedings began at 11:20 am and continued for about two hours. Defence counsels of two of the accused Zobaida Rashid and Wahab Joarder, pleaded innocence of their clients before the

After hearing the submissions of the lawyers of Zobaida

The emerging four-nation

growth quadrangle has set its 7-

point objective and principle to

govern the economic coopera-

tion among its member states,

nouncement made in Dhaka

yesterday, the objectives of the

subregional grouping were fi-

nalised at the April 2 Kath-

mandu meeting of foreign secre-

taries of four South Asian coun-

tries - Bangladesh, India,

the offing aims at creating an

enabling environment for rapid

economic development through

identification and implementa-

tion of specific projects of coop-

BNP secretary general Abdul

Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday

emanded of the government to

release the party leaders and

workers immediately, and said

etherwise it will be forced to

announce massive street

protests after Eid-ul-Azha, re-

workers forthwith and with-

draw all false cases. None will

be able to protect you

(government) if we start move-

dressing a big rally in front of

the party central office in the

as part of its countrywide

demonstration demanding the

release of BNP leaders and also

withdrawal of "false" cases

Bhuivan accused the ruling

against the party activists.

The BNP organised the rally

ment against you," he said ad-

"Release all our leaders and

ports UNB.

The growth quadrangle in

Nepal, and Bhutan.

According to an official an-

reports UNB.

Rashid and Wahab Joarder. the judge adjourned the day's proceedings till 10:30 am today. The prosecution side wanted continuation of the day's proceedings while the defence side

During yesterday's proceedings, five of the accused were produced in the court at around 11:15 am. Begum Zobaida Rashid, another accused who was released on bail on April 4 last, was not present due to illness, her lawyer Mahbubur Rahman claimed. Fourteen others accused in the case are absconding.

Mahbubur Rahman was allowed by the court to represent her till further order.

Charges brought against the 20 accused include conspiracy funder Section 120 B of the Penal Code), murder (under Section 302 of the Penal Code) and destruction of evidence after the murder (under Section 201 of

eration in the core economic

transportation and communi-

cation, energy, trade and in-

vestment facilitation and pro-

motion, tourism optimal and

sustainable utilisation of natu-

"building blocks" for subre-

gional cooperation which will

accelerate regional coopera-

tion. These should be support-

ive of and complementary to

national plans of the countries

in the growth quadrangle.

The projects should result in

tangible benefits to the people

in the subregion in the form of

See Page 12 Col 7

Awami League of killing more

than 100 BNP leaders and ac-

' "sts across the country and

said the killers were moving

freely under the nose of the law

have been instructed to safe-

guard the Awami League terror-

ists and killers of BNP ac-

tivists. The administration.

particularly the police, was not

being allowed to work impar-

der in Feni town, the BNP secre-

tary general said none of the ac-

cused has yet been arrested.

though the culprits are moving

gevernment's policy to safe-

guard the killers. Bring the

killers to book immediately

See Page 12 Col 1

"BNP will not tolerate the

Referring to the double mur-

He alleged that police forces

These projects will serve as

ral resource endowments.

The sectors are multi-modal

Penal Code).

During his submission, Serajul Huq also read out the relevant portion of the FIR of the case lodged with the Dhanmondi Police Station, by Mahitul Islam, the then resident PS of President Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. UNB adds: Reading out the charges, Serajul Huq said the 20 accused should be tried as they committed crime under Section 302 of CrPC by killing Bangabandhu, his 10 family members and few others, including Col Jamil, on August 15 in 1975, in connivance with late Khondaker Mostaque Ahmed, Mahbubul Alam Chashi, Risaldar Syed Sarwar Hossain and Capt Mostafa to aggrandise personal and joint interest and ambi-

posed charges against the 20 of hatching conspiracy to kill See Page 12 Col 3 See Page 12 Col 1

Manik Mia Avenue today

Prime Minister and Awami

League chief Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to address a public meeting organised by the party in the city today.

pected to focus on some national issues in her speech at the meeting this afternoon.

today, the AL relocated the meeting venue from Panthapath to Manik Mia Avenue. Senior party leaders including number of cabinet members as also expected to address the party public meeting.

See Page 12 Col 6

Verdict today on detention of 4 BNP leaders

The High Court vesterday concluded hearing of the habeas corpus cases of four BNP leaders detained under Special Powers Act, reports UNB. The judgement is expected

A division bench of the High Court, comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hug and Hasan Amin, heard the four

habeas corpus matters. Bilkis Akhter, wife of Dr Khondker Mosharraf Hossain Nilufar Mannan, wife of Abdul Mannan, Afroza Abbas, wife of Mirza Abbas, and Jhorna Roy, wife of Goyeswar Chandra Roy, filed the petitions challenging

detention of their husbands un-

See Page 12 Col 3



BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan addressing a rally in front of the party central office in the city yesterday as part of its countrywide demonstration programme.

The prosecution also pro-AL rally at

By Staff Correspondent

Ruling party sources indi-

cated that Sheikh Hasina is ex-Planning for a big gathering

The meeting is aimed at reg-

permission to ferry 1200 more Hajj pilgrims

Biman Bangladesh Airlines is making all-out efforts to carry 1200 more non-ballottee Hajj pilgrims to Jeddah by operating four more flights, reports BSS.

Biman authorities have already approached the Saudi authorities in Jeddah for obtaining permission for these extra flights and pursuing the matter.

After receiving permission Biman will operate four extra flights by adjusting its normal flight schedule, sources said. Biman has already ferried

9000 ballottee Hajj pilgrims and completed preparations to carry 7500 non-ballottees. Biman has also arranged

three extra flights for 822 more non-ballottees after 2000 nonballottee pilgrims demanded to See Page 12 Col 3

Tremors destroy hundreds of bldgs in China

BEIJING, Apr 6: At least 14 people were injured and hundreds of buildings were destroyed when two large earthquakes just five hours apart rocked China's northwestern Xinjiang region today, local officials said, reports Reuter.

"It felt very strong," an official of the Jiashi Seismological Bureau said by telephone. The ground seemed to move from left to right for about one

The first earthquake measuring 6.3 on the open-ended Richter Scale struck the town of Jiashi at 7.46 am today (2346 GMT Saturday), the official

That was followed by a stronger tremor of magnitude 6.4 that jolted the region at 12:36 pm (0436 GMT), he said.

21 more get ad-interim bail

Share market scandal

By Staff Correspondent The High Court yesterday granted ad-interim bail to twenty-one of the thirty-two

persons accused in the share

market scam case. Twenty of them were granted bail until today, pending hearing of their bail petitions, and another for two months.

Those who surrendered before the court and obtained the ad-interim bail included Imtiyaz Hossain, Chairman of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), Ms Runa Alam of SES Company Ltd and Aziz Mohammad Bhai

of Olympic Industries. Prof Mahbub Ahmed, a faculty member of the Dhaka Uni versity and director of Securities Consultants Ltd, obtained ad-interim bail for two months. upon a prayer moved by his counsel Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud to permit him to perform Hajj. A Division Bench comprising Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury and Justice Shah Abu Naveem Mominur Rahman granted bail to Prof Mahbub Ahmed. Others obtained bail for a

day when their petitions were moved at the fag end of the court



Kerb market traders, carrying effigies of alleged share manipulators, demonstrating in the city yesterday protesting the share market scam. - Star photo



DSE Chairman Imtiyaz Hossa....(L) and Aziz Mohammed Bhai of Olympic Industries (R), both accused in share market scam cases, coming out of the High Court after they were granted - Star photo ad-interim bail yesterday.

Biman seeks Saudi | Water retention point at Kalyanpur planned

By Staff Correspondent

The government is planning to acquire 356 acres of land around the Kalyanpur Pump Station in the city to make a water retention point vital for the eco-system, Dhaka WASA sources said.

The Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Ministry has recently okayed a Tk 185 crore project in this regard and the matter is now awaiting ECNEC approval, sources concerned said.

The move comes at a time when most of the city's low-lying areas and open spaces are disappearing fast due to rapid urbanisation. The WASA sources pointed out that such a retention point was vital for the city which desperately needs a ground water recharge point.

Originally, the Kalyanpur Pump Station was build on the concept that it would pump out the water from the retention point around it, from inside the embankment", said a senior WASA official requesting

anonymity. Despite WASA warnings against land filling and buying or selling of land last year, a large part of the land selected for the retention point in the area was occupied by several real estate companies and individuals. "We will have to acquire the land for the sake of the city and the future generations," said the official. He, however, admitted that it would be "a difficult acquisition pro-

See Page 12 Col 2

LGC finalises report

Four-tier local govt system likely

By Staff Correspondent roundtable suggested various

Chairman of the Local Government Commission (LGC) Rahmat Ali, MP, vesterday assured that the Commission, in its report, would recommend a four-tier local government system, to build up democratic institutions across the country. The LGC chairman, however

refused to disclose the salient features of the 'almost finalised' report which, he said, would be submitted first to the Prime Minister. Rahmat Ali was speaking on

the subject at a roundtable conference organised jointly by the Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) and Study and Research Group of the Manabik Shahajya Sangstha in the city. Participants at the

measures for a strong local gov ernment. The strong and powerful local bodies are a pre-requisite for any kind of sustainable development and democratisa tion of the society, they said. Presided over by the Vice

Chairperson of the FEMA, Abul Ahsan, the roundtable was attended by participants from different professionals including legislators, teachers and researchers.

Without disclosing anything specific, the LGC chairman said that while preparing the outline of the future local government system the committee had specifically addressed the issues like component, functions See Page 12 Col 4

MD, directors From Our Correspondent

A CID team visited the jute godowns today which were gutted in a fire last week and collected different samples as evi-

It was alleged in the case that the fire was started, destroying state properties, in order to make a profit illegally through

false insurance claims. Promotion of 64

deputy secys recommended

The Superior Selection Board (SSB) has recommended for promotion of 64 out of 120 deputy secretaries in the administrative cadre to the rank of joint secretary, according to sources concerned.

ing on Saturday also recommended for promotion of five joint secretaries to the rank of

meetings of the SSB to finalise the promotions, the sources said. Earlier last month, 24

mended for promotion.

attended by Establishment Secretary, Finance Secretary, Law Secretary and Comptroller of Accounts and the Auditor Gen-

New S Asian grouping only to serve Indian purpose highway from Bangladesh to the Seven Sisters. float the Quadrangle in pursu-Seminar in city told Prof Muhammad Abdur Rob Myanmar through eastern re-

The planned South Asian Growth Quadrangle will facilitate Indian economic aggression, geographical hegemony and military designs, threatening the sovereignty of

Bangladesh This was observed at a seminar on "Regional Cooperation, National Sovereignty and Security" at the Engineers Institution in the city yesterday, re-

ports UNB. Foreign secretaries of Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan in a meeting in Kathmandu on Wednesday decided to

ing the policy of sub-regional cooperation. The sub-regional bloc was mooted by Dhaka. Criticising the planned Quadrangle, former Vice Chan-

cellor of Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed said larger neighbour India with a mighty military power would utilise it as defence barrier to contain China which is going to emerge as a super power in the beginning of the 21st century. Former Agriculture Minister

Azizul Haque presided over the

seminar, held on the second day

BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated the conference on Saturday.

needs 60-mile-long Chumbak

valley and 18-mile-long Silig-

uri corridor for its military of a three-day Conference on National Solidarity organised strategy. by a forum of intellectuals.

Focusing on geo-physical scenario of the eastern Himalayan region. Prof Emajudpossibility of advancing Indian din said, "India desperately

He warned that India with the world's fourth largest army

and sixth largest air force would use Bangladesh as its hinterland taking the advantage of the regional cooperation in case of an extensive war. Emajuddin also sounded the

troops through Bangladesh ter-

ritory to quench insurgency in

New Delhi for conspiring to implement "Indian doctrine" aiming at establishing its supremacy over entire South Asia by floating a fresh regional cooperation at their dictates. In a paper on "Sub-Regional Grouping: Security and

Sovereign Existence of Bangladesh," Dr Rob observed that India wants to become the only guiding force in the region. Opposing the planned Asian

gion of India, he said it would of the Geography and Environnot only be more expensive but ment Department of DU blamed also be dangerous for Bangladesh. He apprehended that such project would make insurgents

in the north eastern Indian states hostile towards Bangladesh and suggested that the Asian highway be from the historical Arakan road to Myanmar in the greater interest of Bangladesh. Columnist Sadeq Khan pre-

See Page 12 Col 2

Accused persons banned from travelling abroad

16 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 6.00

The government has imposed a ban on foreign travel by the accused in share market

scam cases. A Home Ministry official told BSS that the government had decided to impose the ban at a meeting held at the Home Ministry on April 3 and instructions in this regards were given to the immigration au-

thorities the next day. At all exit points including Zia International Airport and Benapole landport, the Immigration Department officials were instructed that none of the 32 persons accused in the scam cases could go out of the country without government permis-

The Immigration Department has already taken necessary steps in this regard

The Home Ministry has sent a list of names of the accused persons to all offices of the immigration department at the exit points, the official said. The instruction would remain in effect till further order, he

The Securities and Exchange Commission filed 15 separate cases on April 2 against 32 persons of different companies of the country on charges of manipulating the share market.

Apex Food, Amam Seafood refute SEC charges By Staff Correspondent

Zafar Ahmed, Chairman and Managing Director, and Dr Zahur Ahmed, Vice-chairman and deputy Managing Director of Apex Foods Ltd. and Amam Seafood Industries Ltd., in a statement yesterday said there had been no irregularities committed either by the companies or by their directors as alleged by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

All charges brought against them and the companies would be defended through the due process of law. Both the companies shall continue to work for the benefit of the shareholders and the nation. they said.

Ghorashal Urea Factory closed NARSINGDI, Apr 6: Gho-

rashal Urea Fertiliser Factory, an enterprise of the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) was closed today for an indefinite period.

The factory's Managing Director Mostafizur Rahman told UNB that it was declared closed at the instruction of BCIC for necessary overhaul. Reopening of the factory will depend on completion of the overhaul, he

"The annual overhaul was scheduled to begin in the last week of the current month, but after receiving a letter from the BCIC we decided to close the factory today," he said.

But, sources said the staterun losing factory was closed for diverting the gas allocated for it to Ghorashal Thermal Power Station and Ashuganj Power Station. Power generation in the two

stations is being hampered due

to shortage of natural gas sup-

ply, the sources said.

N'ganj fire: CID to probe case against jute co

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 6: CID will conduct the investigation into the case lodged against the Managing Director and four directors of the Popular Jute Exchange by the OC of Narayanganj thana, sources concerned

By Staff Correspondent

Chaired by Cabinet Secretary Ataul Hug, the SSB meetadditional secretary. There will be a few more

deputy secretaries were recom-The SSB meeting was also

eral.