

# Sanitation coverage stands at 85pc Says LGRD adviser

BSS, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperative Adviser Mohammad Anwarul Iqbal said the country has so far achieved 85 percent sanitation coverage, which was only 33 percent in 2003.

"Realising the importance of sanitation for sustainable development and poverty reduction, the government has put special emphasis on achieving its target of 100 percent sanitation by 2010," he said this while he was inaugurating an exposition on water and sanitation at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre in the city yesterday.

Water Aid Bangladesh (WAB), an international NGO, organised the two-day exposition titled 'Watsan Expo 2008' to mark the United Nations International Year of Sanitation 2008.

Deputy Country Representative of DFID Sarah Sanyahunbi spoke as the special guest while WAB

Acting Country Representative M Azhar Ali gave welcome speech and Programme Director Hasin Jahan gave vote of thanks at the inaugural session.

A total of 30 organisations, working for ensuring safe water supply and sanitation across the country, are participating in the exposition.

The adviser underlined the need for making sustainable achievement on sanitation coverage by continuing the mass awareness programme and strengthening the monitoring system.

We need to identify the areas where we are still lagging behind and pockets of unreachable regions to make our efforts sustainable as well as to achieve 100 percent sanitation by 2010, he said.

Anwarul said dependency on ground water need to be reduced as excess use of shallow hand pumps is heightening the risk of arsenic

contamination putting nearly 20 million at risk.

He said the country had achieved 97 percent coverage of water supply during the past decades, but due to contamination of arsenic in the water the coverage has declined to 76 percent.

He said the government has a plan to bring water from the Jamuna river by pipeline for ensuring safe water supply to the Dhaka city dwellers.

Sara Sanyahunbi said they have a duty to provide safe water and sanitation to all people of Bangladesh as a development partner and in line with that the DFID has already provided US\$ 100 million for the improvement of water sector.

Only setting up of latrines would not be considered as full sanitation coverage, good practice of hygiene also needs to be ensured for sustaining the effort, she said.

Azhar said the exposition will

create mass awareness about drinking safe water and using of sanitation. The mass awareness and interaction among the organisations working in public health sector will help the government achieve 100 percent sanitation coverage by 2010, he said.

The participating organisations will demonstrate current approaches and technologies at the fair, which have been practising in the country for helping the poor and the most vulnerable communities to gain access to basic water and sanitation service, he said.

Three seminars on 'sustainable of water supply and sanitation programme', 'technology in water supply and sanitation' and 'Poverty, Equity and Gender in Watsan' will be held on the sidelines of the exposition, he said.

Later, a colourful rally led by the adviser was brought out from the venue.



Dr Shuichi Takinami distributes sewing machine to a Sadr victim at Sharankhola in Bagerhat recently.

## Shajahan, Shahab president, secy of SM Hall Assoc

BSS, Dhaka

Former adviser to the caretaker government ASM Shajahan and Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Vice Chairman M Shahab Ullah have been elected president and secretary general of Salimullah Muslim Hall Old Students' Association.

They were elected at the annual general meeting of the former students of Salimullah Muslim Hall of Dhaka University at the Biam auditorium in the city on Saturday.

Other office-bearers are senior vice-president: Former adviser to the caretaker government Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, has been elected senior vice-president while Planning Secretary Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, vice-presidents: South-East Bank Chairman Alamgir Kabir, BSS Chief Editor Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury and Standard Bank Managing Director Mosharraf Hossain Chowdhury, joint secretaries: Nasiruddin Mahmud and Azad Khan Nantu, treasurer: AKM Bari, literary secretary: Syed Manwar Hossain, cultural secretary: Rafiqul Haq Hafiz, office secretary: Rawshan Zaid Angur, organising secretary: Syed Arifuzzaman Saif, information and publicity secretary: M Zahirul Haque, and education and social welfare secretary: Zahurul Alam.

Executive committee members are Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly, Suhel Ahmed Chowdhury, Mir Nasir Hussain, Riaz Uddin Ahmed, Faizur Razzak, Abu Saleh, SAM Nuruddin, Md Farouq Hossain, Aktaruzzaman Babul (Ex MP), Hannan Firoz, Abul Kashem Chowdhury, Akteruzzaman Elias Ahmed, Prof Belayet Hossain, Zohir Uddin Shapon, Istiaq Ahmed Chowdhury, Shajalal Khan Firoz, Mizanur Rahman Mesbah, Ali Akber Khan, Mafiqul Hassan Tripti, Abdul Kalam Azad, Dr Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Mannan Patwary, Md Golam Mostofa, Nazimuddin Chowdhury, Abul Kalam, Zinnur Ahmed Chowdhury, Sheikh Ahmed, Shoaeb Ahmed, AK Khairuzzaman Batul, Abdul Wadud Siddique, Masud Mannan, Khandker Habibul Ahsan, Elias Ahmed, Major Kamrul Hasan and Nayeem Uddin Ahmed.

## Rangpur road crash kills 3

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Three people were killed and 25 others injured in a road accident on Rangpur-Dinajpur Highway at Choupodi under Taraganj upazila in the district yesterday.

## Winter exercise of BAF ends

UNB, Dhaka

A five-day winter exercise titled 'Wintex-2008' of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) concluded yesterday.

All types of BAF aircraft, helicopters and radar squadrons of different bases took part in the exercise aimed at assessing and evaluating the operational capability of BAF.

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman participated in the exercise yesterday by flying a FI-7 fighter aircraft and visited different Air Force bases involved in the exercise.

As part of the exercise, BAF fighter aircraft and helicopters participated in air-to-ground live firing at Rasulpur firing range, Tangail.

Army, Navy and Civil Defence also participated in the exercise.



## Prof Anwarullah Chy joins Green University as VC

Prof Dr Anwarullah Chowdhury, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University and ambassador of Bangladesh to Bahrain, has joined the Green University of Bangladesh as vice-chancellor on February 23, says a press release.

Governing Council Chairman Prof Dr AKM Fazlul Haque and Vice-Chairman and Treasurer Prof Dr Mokbul Ahmed of the university accorded him a reception.

Dr Anwarullah served as DU vice-chancellor, member of University Grants Commission, ambassador to Bahrain, visiting professor of Minnesota State University in USA, visiting fellow of University of Sussex, UK and dean of faculty of social science. He is also founder chairman of Anthropology Department of Dhaka University. He has about 15 books and numerous articles published in several local and foreign journals. He has got his Master's degree with honours in Sociology from Dhaka University and PhD from Delhi School of Economics.

Moreover, he is a columnist of the Ittefaq and other dailies.

## Books for Bangladeshi students from USA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of Bangladeshi students in Boston, USA, has launched a drive titled 'Books for Bangladesh' with a view to collecting books from libraries and dormitories and sending them to Bangladesh for university students.

The drive was formally launched on March 1 at a programme organised by Bangladeshi community in Boston. Bangladesh Ambassador to the US Humayun Kabir was present as the chief guest.

Most universities in Boston throw away many good books and journals at the end of every semester. The students have already collected over 5000 such books and journals on policy, science, technology, literature and medicine, says a press release.

They also hoped that the books would be useful for the students of universities outside Dhaka.

## CA allocates Tk 70,000 for treatment of varsity student

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday allocated Tk 70,000 from the CA's fund for the treatment of Ashiq Ehsan Shashi, a student of a private university who is now undergoing treatment at LabAid Hospital in the city, says a press release.

Shahshi, son of Md Shahinul Islam, administrative tribunal judge of Dhaka, has remained in an unconscious state following an accident that took place at his home on February 19.

The chief adviser allocated the money in response to an appeal for help for the expensive treatment of Shahshi. The appeal was published in the daily Janakantha on March 3.

## AL wants JS polls first

FROM PAGE 16

"I want to clarify that in no way the upazila parishad elections should be held before the national polls, because upazila elections will be used differently in the national polls," he told the seminar.

He however said the city corporation and municipality elections may be held during this time.

Another AL leader Col (ret) Shawkat Ali said the party is tensed due to the fact that the Election Commission (EC) is talking about holding all sorts of elections when its main mandate now is to hold the national elections.

The party has taken a position against upazila parishad elections, he said, asking: "How is it possible that candidates selected by some forces will take part in the elections when political parties are not allowed to run their activities?"

"It's not acceptable that some people will deliver new theories of democracy without incorporating public opinion," Shawkat Ali added.

Columnist and journalist Abul Maksud said he was not feeling good about EC's recent remarks, as it was talking about holding so many elections. "EC's main task now is to hold the national elections, so it should stick to that."

Opposing AL leaders' views, JP leader Sheikh Shahidul Islam said the political parties should not create barriers on the way to hold local government elections. "Wherever voters' list is completed, the local government elections should be held."

Expressing similar view, another JP leader GM Quader said the political parties' apprehension that "king's party" will be empowered through local government elections is not right.

Shujan President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad later told journalists the government may hold local government elections including

upazila parishad's if it can manage those.

"The roadmap for holding the national polls by this year, however, should in no way be hampered in the name of holding local government elections." He said he does not think there is "king's party interest" in holding the local government elections.

Presiding the roundtable, Prof Muzaffer, also Trustee Board Chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh, urged political parties to make commitment they would nominate honest and competent people and not launch "nomination trade" in the next parliamentary polls.

In his keynote speech, Shujan Secretary Dr Badiul Alam Majumder observed that the electoral laws should be more stringent so that no-one convicted of corruption can take part in the polls.

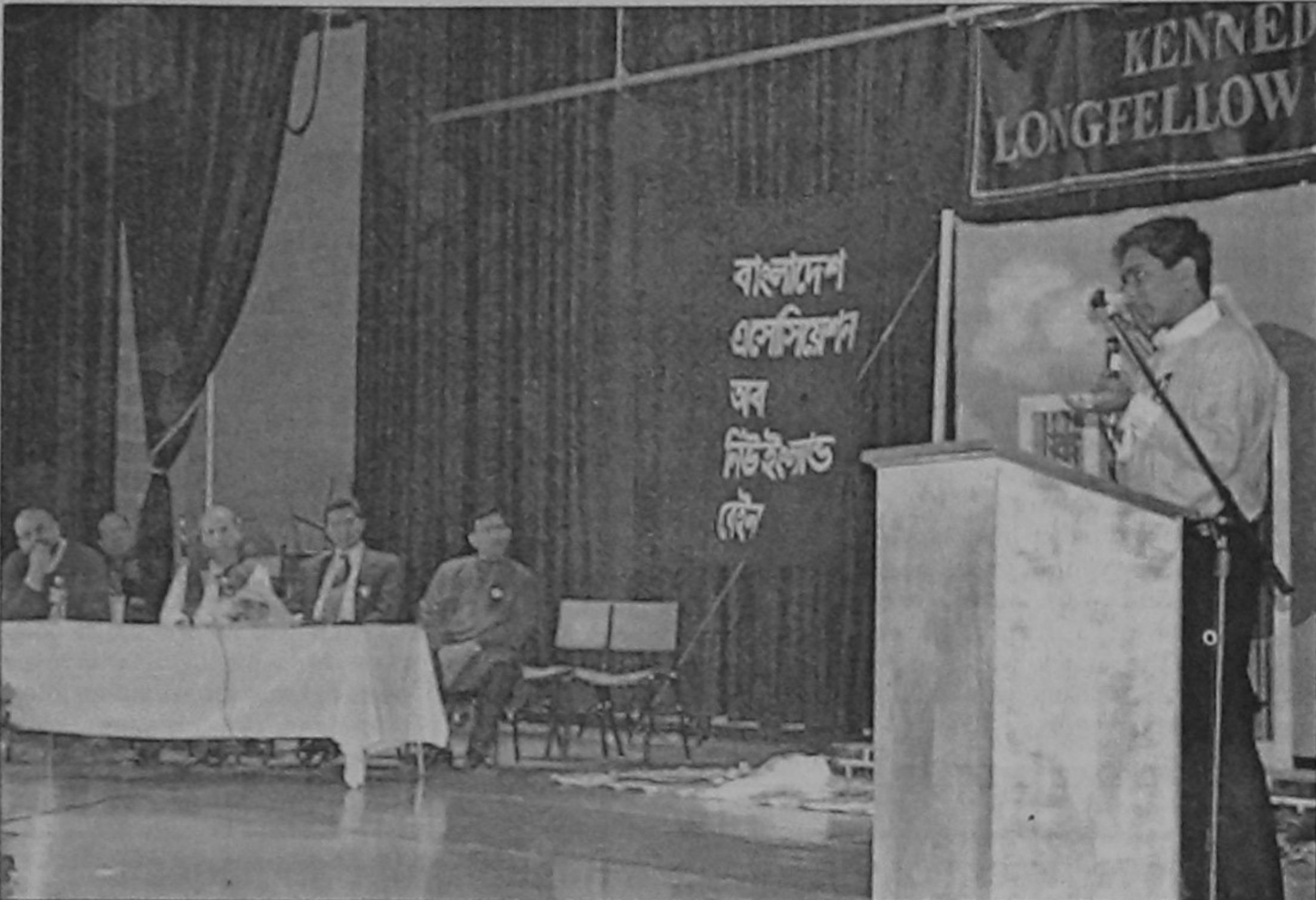
"Usually the political parties are supposed to centrally nominate the election candidates, but in most cases such rules are violated and money becomes a factor," he said.

Such trading on nomination could be avoided by appropriate electoral rules and political parties' commitment, he observed.

The speakers at the roundtable apprehended that many partisan officials are still in the administration and will work in time to help their chosen party leaders win.

BNP leader Mofazzal Karim said politicians created political divisions in the administration since the 80s which is a matter of concern. "We have to think how we can address the issue."

Former advisers to caretaker government ASM Shahjahan and M Hafizuddin Khan, Brotee Chief Executive Officer Sharmeen Murshid, AL leader advocate Rahmat Ali, columnist Mohiuddin Ahmed, local government expert Abu Taleb also spoke.



Ejaz Ahmad, a student of Harvard Kennedy School, explains the 'Books for Bangladesh' drive at its launching ceremony in Boston recently.

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