

# Integrated water management a must to address waterlogging

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday stressed the need for setting up an integrated water management project to avert water-related hazards, including waterlogging problem.

Disintegrated water management projects have brought economic benefits to one section of the society, while those have caused economic hardships to another section, especially poor people due to lack of environmental and equity considerations, they added.

Titled 'Equity consideration in water management: A crying need for social justice in

Bangladesh,' the discussion was organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) at BIP conference hall in the city.

The speakers placed a six-point demand, including giving importance to environmental preservation and the livelihood opportunities of vulnerable groups in water management project, appropriate regulations and guidelines to ensure social justice and ensuring public participation in decision-making.

Other demands include cancellation of leasing system of water bodies, ensuring proper waste management, eviction of grabbers from the river bank and compelling industry owners for setting up effluent treatment plant.

Prof Jahir Uddin Chowdhury of Institute of Water and Flood Management at Buet called on the government to increase dependency on local experts instead of foreign consultants to formulate a water management planning.

He also called for introducing social science or social expectation course in all engineers' institutions to make the planners understand of socio-economic reality.

Water control structures are to be made multi-functional to smooth agriculture, open water fisheries, navigation and ecosystem, he added.

Former director general of Warpo engineer Enamul Hoque criticised the government not to

make the water act draft public, putting a question to the government that why it is going to hold the meeting at Gazipur instead of Warpo building at Dhaka? There must be another motive behind meeting.

He demanded steps to introduce licence system among the public to use the water bodies instead of leasing.

Presided over by Bapa Vice-President ASM Shahjahan, also former adviser to a caretaker government, the discussion was also addressed by Brotee CEO Sharmin Morshed, Kabodak Rakha Andolon President Rashidur Rahman Rashid and hydro geologist of Netherlands Remi Kempers.

## Process of changes on following institutional reforms: CA

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhrudin Ahmed yesterday said the process of changes is going on in Bangladesh following institutional reforms undertaken by the present caretaker government.

The head of the caretaker government made the remarks when Australian High Commissioner in Dhaka Douglas Foskett made a courtesy call on him at the CA's Office.

The high commissioner appreciated the leadership role of Fakhrudin in carrying out reforms and attaining landmark achievements by the interim government.

He said it will eventually help establish a sound democracy in Bangladesh.

The envoy requested for signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Bangladesh and Australia to 'fight against terrorism'.

He said Australia has signed agreement with 13 countries to combat terrorism.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim said the chief adviser said that the government would look into the matter.

The CA told the Australian

diplomat that Bangladesh's stand against terrorism is very clear - it "always condemns terrorism in its all forms and manifestations".

Terrorism knows no borders, the CA said.

The high commissioner also told the CA that there is no melamine in Australian powdered milk as test was carried out in Australia. Responding to him, the CA said the government is waiting for results of sample tests of powdered milk.

The Australian deputy high commissioner in Dhaka, Secretary of CA's Office Kazi Aminul Islam and CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim were also present.

## UK to issue ID card for foreign nationals

UNB, Dhaka

The UK border agency will begin issuing compulsory ID cards from November 25 to nationals of countries outside the European Economic Area who apply to remain in the UK either as students or on the basis of marriage or partnership.

A release of the British HC said the move is part of the UK's universal new National Identity Scheme, delivering a simple proof of identity, which is first being rolled out to visa nationals legally entitled to live and work in the UK.

Head of Migration Unit at the British HC in Dhaka, Audrey Stocks, said, "This is good news for Bangladeshis. ID cards will simplify access to a range of services and actually make it easier for legitimate migrants to demonstrate their entitlements to live and work in the UK. Greater identity credibility for migrant workers is a distinct advantage."

The ID cards, replacing old-fashioned documentation, will make it easier and quicker for employers and sponsors to check entitlement to work and study. It can also be used as a form of identification (if the holder wishes to open a bank account in the UK). The holder is not required to carry their card at all times, but they may need to show it in order to access services and will need it to enter and leave the UK.

Through the use of 'biometrics' (finger print scans and photos), the introduction of universal ID cards will also help to protect migrants against identity abuse. The new credit-card sized document will show the holder's photo, name, nationality, date and place of birth, and the type of visa issued.

Within three years, all those coming to the UK for more than six months on a visa or extending their stay in the UK will have a card. It is estimated that by the end of 2014-15 about 90% of all foreign nationals will be issued with an ID card.



A large number of guardians wait in long queues to collect admission test forms for class one (English medium) for their children at Viharunisa Noon School and College in the city yesterday.

## Reshmi takes its toll on crops

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higher authorities, charting the damage Reshmi did to the district.

According to the report, Galachipa and Dashmina are the worst-affected among the upazilas.

It said 9,878 acres of Aman crop and 9,506 houses have been partly or fully destroyed and 14,682 families affected.

Fish worth around Tk 70 lakh swept away from at least 50 enclosures in Dashmina. At least 1,500 livestock, poultry and other domestic animals were killed in the storm.

Of the dam parts in ruins, 10 km was in Dashmina, 5 km in Mirzaganj, 3 km in Patuakhali sadar, 50 km in Galachipa, 35 km in Kalapara and 1 km in Baupla, said sources in Water Development Board (WDB).

Our Barisal correspondent reports: According to primary assessment by the regional agriculture extension office, crops on 2.28 lakh hectares of land have been damaged by the cyclone. They

account for 25% of the total standing crops in 11 districts under Barisal Agriculture Region.

Aman, Boro seedlings and winter vegetables were the worst-hit.

Aman, the main crop of the southern region, was cultivated on 8.32 lakh hectares of land, and the other crops on 0.53 lakh hectares.

The 11 districts under Barisal Agriculture Region include Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Barguna and Bhola, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Shariatpur, Rajbari and Madaripur.

According to news agency Focus Bangla, 1,750 hectares of crops have been flattened in Cyclone Reshmi.

AK Biswas, deputy assistant agriculture officer of Galena upazila, said crops and vegetables on 1,750 hectares of land have been wiped out in continuing downpours and winds.

UNB adds: Winter vegetables on large areas of land in the district

have been affected due to rain for the last three days.

Officials concerned fear a shortfall in production of Rabi crops as sown lands of mustard and pulse have gone under water.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said winter vegetables including coriander leaves, cauliflower, radish and tomato have been badly damaged in Gheor, Shibhalay, Harirampur, and Satoria upazila.

Meanwhile, several organisations yesterday expressed condolences to the families of those perished in the tropical storm. They also voiced concern about damage to the standing crops.

They demanded that the government take necessary steps to help the cyclone victims overcome the crisis.

Those who issued condolence statements include Sammilita Samajik Andolon, Bangladesh Kalyan Party and Bangladesh Gonotantik Ainjibi Samity.

## Ex-BNP MP Moni, his brother sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Former BNP lawmaker Nurul Islam Moni and his younger brother Saiful Islam Jamal, also a BNP leader, were sent to jail after they surrendered to a Barguna court yesterday.

They had been in large since a Barguna court sentenced them to 14 years' imprisonment in a graft case in 2007.

Moni, former lawmaker from Barguna-2, and Jamal, secretary of Patharghata Upazila BNP, surrendered to the Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court with bail prayers in the morning.

Judge Md Musharraf Hossain rejected the bail prayers and sent them to Barguna district jail.

On November 4, 2007, the same court sentenced Moni, Jamal, Patharghata BNP vice-president Advocate Samsuddin Shanu and Sraniik Dal leader Jamal Hossain to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment for using relief materials in the construction of BNP office at Patharghata.

## NU pro-VC removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan, pro-vice chancellor and treasurer of National University (NU) was removed from his post yesterday for his alleged involvement in irregularities.

The allegations brought against him include promotion of illegally recruited 400 officials and taking classes in private universities as a part-time teacher violating the existing rules.

A circular signed by the deputy secretary of education ministry said Prof Hasan was relieved of the charge of NU pro-VC and additional charge of treasurer.

Prof Hasan had been holding three vital posts -- VC, pro-VC and treasurer -- for over six months until July 16 this year.

He was severely criticised for four-time leakage of question papers, allowing promotion of 400 employees who were allegedly recruited through a fake advertisement.

## Poet Talim's 90th birth anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 90th birth anniversary of poet Talim Hossain, says a press release.

Talim Hossain was a prominent Nazrul researcher and editor of the literary magazine 'Mahe Nao' in the 1960s.

He was also awarded with Ekushey Padak.

## B Chy for national consensus govt

UNB, Bagerhat

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President Dr AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday emphasised forming a national consensus government to curb corruption and terrorism in the country.

"The country could be freed from corruption and terrorism if a national consensus government be formed," he said at his party's district conference at Sangskritik Foundation in the afternoon.

B Chowdhury said the four main mottos of Bikalpa Dhara are to free the country from corruption, terrorism, poverty and build a democratic country.

With this end his party is considering fielding candidates in all 300 parliamentary seats in the upcoming election to "prevent the corrupt and terrorists".

He also called upon the party leaders and activists to be prepared so that people who committed terrorism and corruption during the previous regimes could not

come to power again. "If two former premiers -- Hasina and Khaleda -- get SSF protection after the announcement of election schedule, then the same SSF protection would have to be given to two former presidents," said B Chowdhury, one of the ex-presidents.

## Holy Cross College science festival

BSS, Dhaka

A three-day Pran Fruto-Holy Cross Inter College Science Festival 2008 will begin tomorrow at the college premises at Farmgate in the city.

"During the festival, seminars on science affairs, competition on general knowledge, display of science fiction movie, debate, science and mathematics Olympiad will be organised", Naima Huque, president of Holy Cross College Science Club, told reporters at a press conference.



Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman gives away graduation degree certificates to the officers of No. 54 and 55 Officers' Courses at the certificate giving ceremony at BAF Academy in Jessore yesterday.



## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise 2-3 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 31.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and Rangamati and lowest 17.6 degrees Celsius at Jessore and Tangail.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:21pm today and rises at 6:03am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.5	18.0	75	71
Chittagong	28.8	21.1	78	76
Rajshahi	29.0	19.1	98	87
Khulna	28.5	19.0	74	82
Barisal	28.7	19.0	75	89
Sylhet	30.8	20.5	77	82
Cox's Bazar	31.5	22.6	75	77

## DHAKA TODAY

### Discussion

The Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities of Dhaka University organises a discussion on Prof Mohammad Moniruzzaman's contribution in the field of Bangla literature. Venue: Seminar room of the centre. Time: 3:30pm.

### View exchange meeting

University Grants Commission (UGC) organises a view exchange meeting on policy to resist sexual harassment in higher education institution. Venue: UGC auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

### Dialogue

Department of Population Sciences of Dhaka University in cooperation with UNFPA will organise a policy dialogue on 'Population ageing in Bangladesh'. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 9:30am.

### Roundtable

The Dhaka Ittefaq will organise a roundtable on effects of melamine contaminated milk products. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:30am.

### Discussion

Sher-E-Bangla AK Fazlul Hoque Research Council organises a discussion on thoughts of Sher-E-Bangla in developing the country and society. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:30pm.

### Seminar

Article 19 and other associate organisations jointly organise a seminar on strategies for implementing Right to Information Ordinance. Venue: IDB Bhaban auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

### Award giving ceremony

The award giving ceremony of 'Amicus BCRA Award 2008' will be held. Bangladesh Cultural Reporters' Association organises the event. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 5:00pm.

### Human chain

Bangladesh Physiotherapy Students' Union will form a human chain demanding separate college for the physiotherapy students. Venue: In front of the National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

## Tigers make it a match

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delivery, the Bangladesh captain put pad first and was plumb in front as the hosts began to slip into the quagmire. And it got worse when Rajin Saleh, Bangladesh's chosen number three for the series, suffered Ashraf's fate three balls later, also for a duck.

It took another four deliveries from Jeetan Patel for the batsmen to ask for bad light, and play was duly called off with eight balls remaining in the day. Opener Tamim Iqbal was unbeaten on eight while Mehrib Hossain was yet to face a delivery.

The Tigers now have to score at least 163 as the laws for interrupted Test matches state that the follow-on score goes down to 100 runs if no play takes place in the first three days of the match.

The middle and lower orders again have to salvage the innings and put Bangladesh in a position of safety after the last ten minutes of reckless batting jeopardised the

good name earned in the ongoing series.

The day itself began promisingly after sun shone on the Mirpur ground after three days of continuous rain across the country.

And it got even better when Mashrafe Bin Mortaza found Aaron Redmond, shouldering arms, leg-before in the third over on a pitch that provided movement and gave a peculiar mirror-like reflection.

Next over, debutant Mahbubul Alam produced a superb delivery to clean bowl Jamie How as the tall Faridpur-born paceman picked up his first Test wicket off his seventh delivery. Ross Taylor was cleaned up by Shahadat Hossain after the stylish right-hander also shouldered arms in the 20th over.

McCullum and Jesse Ryder rode out a few anxious moments but latched on to the spinners as the two added 137 for the fourth wicket. Left-handed Ryder struck a dozen boundaries on his way to what

would have been his maiden hundred but fell nine runs short when he top-edged Abdul Razzak to short-fine leg, falling for 91 off 140 balls. Ryder played both spin and pace with aplomb but later regretted giving away the wicket.

McCullum followed soon after, skying Shakib Al Hasan for 66 off 122 deliveries that had eight boundaries and a pulled six off Mehrib Hossain. Ashraf removed his opposite number as the Kiwi skipper smashed a six and two boundaries in his enterprising 22 off 24 balls.

When Vettori sportingly declared the innings on 262 for six after 75 overs, Daniel Flynn had eked out 35 off 81 balls and Grant Elliott, replacing Jacob Oram, was at the crease.

For Bangladesh, Mashrafe, Mahbubul, Razzak, Shahadat, Shakib and Ashraf all took a wicket each and had there been no madness in the last ten minutes, this would have been a simpler day.

## Militant patrons stay safe for lax law

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they want to do it under existing laws or after amendment or formulation of new ones."

Meanwhile, the hope of unravelling JMB's foreign links and funding that kept the militant outfit's operations alive for years has also seemingly withered away as the spirit the interim government had initially showed has apparently faded.

Following the March 2007 execution of JMB kingpins Abdur Rahman, Siddique Islam alias Bangla Bhai and four others, the government showed its firm stance to detect the outfit's political patrons and take stern action against them. Earlier on August 17, 2005, the militant group banged to limelight by blasting near-simultaneous 459 bombs across the country.

The patrons of JMB would face the same punishment (execution) if they were found guilty, announced the then law adviser barrister Mainul Hossain at that time.

"The law enforcers are looking for the godfathers. If they are netted and we learn about their roles, they will face the same punishment," he said in March last year.

It's been around 16 months when Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad said: "We have already tentatively identified the patrons of the organisation (JMB)."

Mysteriously enough, no action has been taken against anyone although names of some former BNP-Jamaat-led ruling alliance's political leaders, ministers and lawmakers surfaced as patrons of JMB in the northern districts.

The investigators working at the dictat of the then government high-ups also did not take any

move to detect and expose them.

Only some people who were affected by Bangla Bhai's atrocious killing missions in the Rajshahi region have filed several cases against the leading local patrons of JMB in recent months.

These patrons are former telecommunications minister barrister Aminul Haque, ex-deputy minister for land Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu and former legislator Nadim Mostafa.

These leaders patronised JMB operations in the Rajshahi region for their personal and political gains in 2004, although the outfit was operating secretly since late 1990s under different names.

Meantime, quoting police high officials, The Daily Star reported that Bangla Bhai's killing mission in 2004 was launched upon the green signal of former premier Khaleda Zia, her all-powerful son Tarique Rahman and the then state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar.

But till date, the law-enforcement agencies have not made any official move to initiate an investigation into that.

Earlier, an investigation by The Daily Star also unearthed that four of the top seven JMB leaders including Bangla Bhai were previously involved with Jamaat-e-Islami.

Police investigations based on interrogation of arrested JMB leaders also revealed the same.

Journalistic investigations show that under the leadership of Shaikh Abdur Rahman, JMB shared the same vision and philosophy of the mainstream Islamic party Jamaat.

The only difference in their goal is that Jamaat wants to come to power through election and JMB through bloodshed.

A large number of political observers believe JMB was an armed front of one or more political parties having the same goal of turning Bangladesh into an Islamic state.

Sources say the task forces of National Coordination Committee to combat corruption and serious crime also started an investigation into patronisation of militancy which got stalled at one stage for reasons unknown.

On militant funding, some investigators say though they had some hints that militants received financial aid from foreign countries or had foreign networks, they failed to unearth it as most of the transaction was made through hundi or in person.

The investigators say they have found out that some individuals and organisations from the Middle East had given financial support to JMB at different times.

But they have failed to confirm the links between JMB and any specific foreign country.

"Though there were some transactions through banks but due to inefficient and improper monitoring system it was not possible for us to prove that the money was transacted for militant activities," says a top official in a law-enforcement agency.

"But from now on we hope we'll be able to identify the militants' bank transactions, if any, as the government has introduced an effective Money Laundering Prevention Act and some other rules and regulations for local and foreign transactions," he adds.

While refusing to admit that the militants have foreign links, the investigators say a few militants have had training in Afghanistan

## 10 cadres of 'Allahar Dal' acquitted

UNB, Chuadanga

A court yesterday acquitted 10 cadres of 'Allahar Dal' of the charges in a case filed against them for their alleged involvement in destructive activities and conspiracy against the government.

After examining the records and witnesses, Judge of Chief Judicial Magistrate Court ASM Shahjahan Mashreki observed that the allegations brought against them could not be proved.

The acquitted, who were rounded up by Rab from a meeting in June, are Ziaur Rahman, Omar Ali, Shahin Iqbal Sumon, Ariful Islam Arif, Sumon, Palash, Shukur and Rashidul.

According to prosecution, a Rab team arrested the 10 suspecting them to be cadres of the banned Islamist outfit on June 8 while they were in a meeting at night inside a government fish hatchery at Dingedah in Sadar upazila.

During a seven-day remand, all of them identified themselves as cadres of 'Allahar Dal' and said their leader was Martin Mehedi of Gaibandha district.

## CHARGES OF VIOLENCE

## Badsha, 15 others acquitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court yesterday acquitted Workers' Party leader Faze Hossain Badsha and 15 others of charges of violence in a case filed by the police in 2002.

The others included Badsha's wife Taslima Begum, Rajshahi Rakha Sangram Parishad convener Zamat Khan, Rajshahi Workers Party leaders Liakat Ali, Mahfuzul Hasnain, Abu Raihan and Entazul Haque, Rajshahi Awami League vice-president Mahfuzul Alam, Hasanuzaman Shaheen, Ziaul Haque, Liton, Debashish, Feroz and Noor.

Rajshahi Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court delivered the verdict.

According to the prosecution, a clash between the police and political activists erupted after the police intercepted a procession as the demonstrators were demanding cancellation of Rajshahi City Corporation election results in 2002.

Later, the police filed a case accusing the demonstrators of preventing the police from discharging their duties.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT