

## WFP to work with Bangladesh for ensuring food security

UNB, Dhaka

The World Food Programme (WFP) is keen to work with Bangladesh for ensuring food security, increasing food aid for poor people, and formulating right strategies for food stock and supply.

WFP Country Representative John Aylieff informed Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr M Abdur Razzak about their willingness when he called on the minister at his office yesterday.

They discussed existing potentialities and problems in ensuring food security in the country and different aspects of the WFP-run programmes.

As the new government is thinking about food rationing for the poor to offset high prices, the minister sought WFP's cooperation in increasing the agency's activities in Bangladesh to ensure food security.

John Aylieff gave assurance of cooperation with the government after gathering experience from the rationing systems of other countries.

PRIYANKA MEETS ABED

## Introduction of non-formal primary education in India discussed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, daughter of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi and ruling Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi, yesterday met Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed at its head office at Mohakhali in the city.

They discussed different aspects of introducing non-formal primary education in India with the assistance of Brac. Abed proposed introduction of some school programmes in India on pilot basis.

Earlier, Priyanka held a meeting with the officials of the education programme. During the hour-long meeting, she stressed the need for identifying the elements of Brac non-formal education programme, which are suitable for India.

Rajiv Gandhi Foundation Secretary Gyanendra Bagdaiya and trainer Sonia Phillip accompanied Priyanka.

Brac Executive Director Dr Mahbub Hossain led the

Brac team. Director of the education programme Shafiqul Islam and director of Education Institute Erum Mariam were present.

Later, Dr Mahbub told journalists that the Indian delegation wants to introduce the education programme of Brac in their country.

Primarily they are hopeful of introducing the programme on a pilot basis.

Priyanka Gandhi left Dhaka for India at 12:30pm yesterday. She came to Dhaka on a two-day visit yesterday afternoon and visited three non-formal schools run by Brac at Savar.

Priyanka's brother and Congress Party General Secretary Rahul Gandhi came to Bangladesh last year. He was impressed with the Brac education programme and expressed his desire to introduce the programme in India.

Priyanka, a trustee of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, came to Bangladesh to finalise the matter.



Foreign Minister Dipu Moni speaks at the UN Human Rights Council on UPR report in Geneva. On right is Bangladesh Ambassador and Permanent Representative in Geneva Debapriya Bhattacharya. (Story on Page 2)

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Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, daughter of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi and ruling Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi, calls on Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed at the Brac head office at Mohakhali in the city yesterday.

## Rights bodies seek meet with PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajik Protirodh Committee, a forum of 49 women's and human rights organisations, held a meeting in the city yesterday seeking a courtesy call with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to place their different demands.

It was held at Poet Sufia Kamal Bhaban with Ayesha Khanam, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, in the chair.

The meeting congratulated the grand alliance for forming a government after winning an absolute majority in ninth parliamentary election.

It said the appointment of four women ministers and election of 475 women to vice-

chairman posts in the upazila polls are positive changes.

The meeting called for direct election in reserved seats for women in parliament and raising this number to 100, uniform family laws, amendment to citizenship laws and reinstatement of women's development policy of 1997.

It also discussed preparations for celebrating International Women's Day on March 8.

A large congregation of women will be held on that day at the Central Shaheed Minar at 3:00pm.

It will be followed by a procession which will end at Noor Hossain Square.

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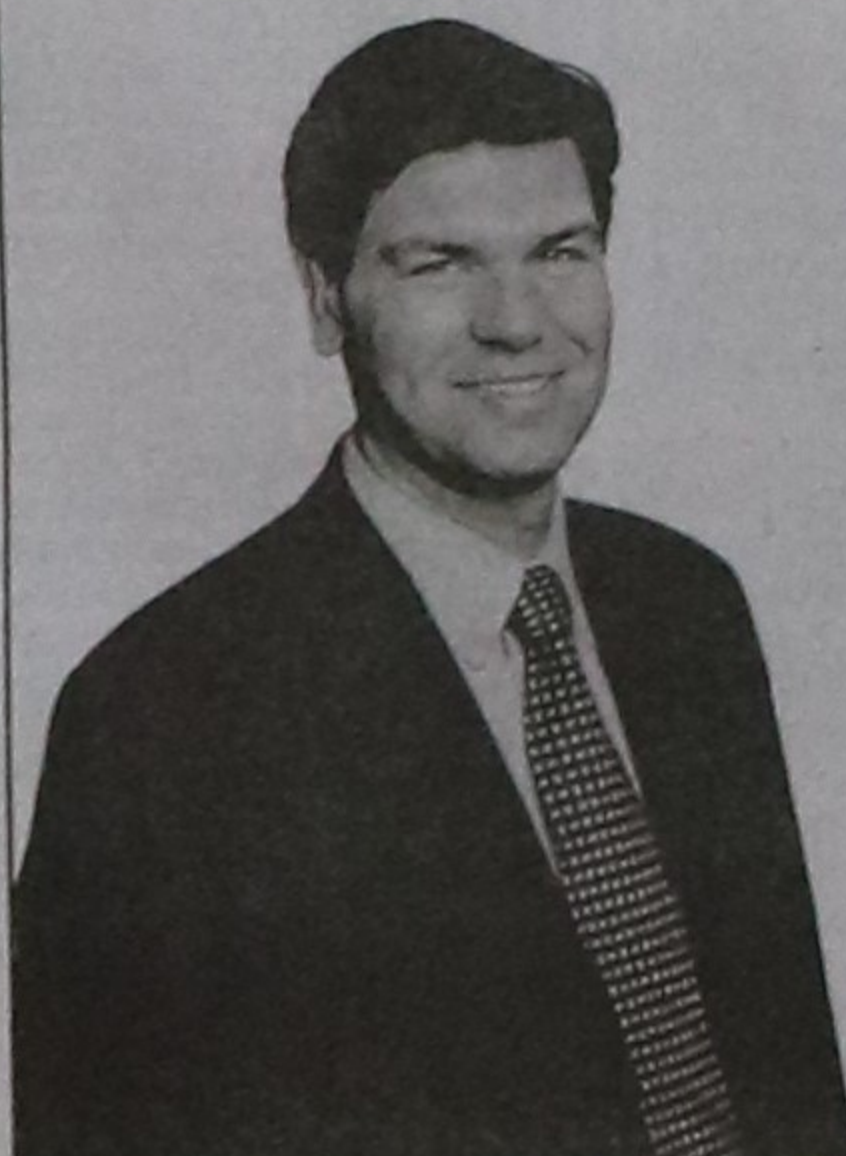
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