



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina poses for photograph with the graduating officers of 'DSCSC 2008-2009' Course at the graduation ceremony of the Defence Services Command and Staff College at Mirpur Hall in Mirpur Cantonment yesterday. (Story on Page 1) PHOTO: ISPR

Boy falls from fourth floor of building, dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seven-year-old boy died after he fell from the fourth floor of a five-storey building while he was looking outside through a window at Lalbagh in the city yesterday evening.

The victim was identified as Taisir, son of grocery shopkeeper Idris Ali at Swarighat. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Police said Taisir fell down while his mother Taslima went to the roof to bring clothes.

Meanwhile, Dakkhin Khan police recovered body of a three-day-old boy at a field in Gawair at around 8:00pm.

Police said there was stain of blood on the face and the legs were tied with rope.

Kafrul police recovered another body from a house at Imamnagar of Kafrul early yesterday.

The body was identified as Rakibul, 4, son of Akkas Ali of the area.

Police said the body was found floating in a pond in the area at around 11:00pm. Rakibul went out of the house at 6:30pm to play with other children.

Govt, UNDP sign \$ 30.8m electoral database agreement

UNB, Dhaka

The Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) yesterday signed an agreement for the implementation of a new development project entitled "Construction of Server Stations for the Electoral Database".

The project, jointly funded by the Government of Bangladesh, UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and the Netherlands, aims to further strengthen the electoral system and ensure the sustainability of the voter list with photographs, said a press release.

The total value of the project amounts to \$ 30.8 million (approximately Tk 213 crore) with \$ 16.9 million (approximately Tk 117 crore) contribution from the Government of Bangladesh, \$ 8 million (approximately Tk 55 crore) from the UK's DFID and \$ 5.9 million (approximately Tk 41 crore) from the Netherlands government.

Under the project, 502 permanent centers will be established in upazilas, city corporations, thanas and at the divisional level to maintain and update the existing voter list with photographs on a regular basis.

In addition, the center will serve as points of interaction between the election commis-

sion, voters and local representatives from stakeholder organizations, it said. "I am confident that this project will make a significant contribution to sustaining the achievements of the Bangladesh Election Commission, including the maintenance of the internationally acclaimed photo-

graphic voter list," said UNDP Country Director Stefan Priesner.

The signing of the project comes after the success UNDP and Election Commission have had in implementation of the voter list project that registered more than 81 million voters in just eleven months.



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PHOTO: COURTESY

Australian High Commissioner Dr Justin Lee helps himself to a glass of iron and arsenic-free water during his visit to Manikganj yesterday.

Project for safe drinking water

METRO DESK

The newly appointed High Commissioner of Australia to Bangladesh Dr Justin Lee and his spouse yesterday visited Manikganj to inaugurate a workshop promoting safe drinking water for local people, says a press release.

The workshop, organised by the Society for People's Actions in Change and Equity (SPACE), a local NGO, involved local leaders and the community learning about a new project that will provide safe drinking water through a new low-cost means of water treatment.

SPACE is developing cheap, non-chemical water treatment methods to mitigate arsenic contamination.

It uses a simple unit made up of concrete rings, brick, sand and charcoal.

The project will provide safe drinking water to around 500 families living in three villages.

Speaking at the workshop Dr Lee said arsenic contamination and waterborne diseases continue to endanger many people in Bangladesh, but this simple and effective technology can make a great difference to improving water quality and saving lives.

Dr Lee congratulated SPACE on its efforts to improve access to safe drinking water and underlined that the Australian government remained committed to working closely and cooperatively with the people and Government of Bangladesh.

The high commissioner also visited a number of households in the project area and talked with locals, sharing their experience about the project.

The Australian High Commission provided Tk 700,000 to fund the scheme under its Direct Aid Programme.

40,000 eggs seized

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

At least 40,000 Indian eggs were seized from bordering Chouara Bazar area under Sadar Dakshin upazila in Comilla yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the area and seized the Indian eggs worth around Tk 2 lakh when those were being smuggled into country.

Sensing presence of law enforcers the smugglers fled from the scene. Local administration destroyed the eggs.



Mirza Tarequl Qader, executive director, Bangladesh Institute of Journalism and Electronic Media (BIJEM), presents a keynote paper on the films of Bangladesh at a programme at the Amar Ekushey Book Fair on Bangla Academy premises in the city on Wednesday. Noted drama personality Ramendu Majumdar, left, was also present.

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