



## Vow to continue campaign for saving rivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists and educationists yesterday pledged to bolster the ongoing campaign to save the rivers flowing around the capital with support of people.

They made the observations at the inaugural of a two-day photo exhibition organised as part of The Daily Star - Channel i joint initiative "To the Prime Minister: Save Rivers Save Dhaka".

The exhibition at Shatayu Angan at Ramna Park in the capital highlights photographs depicting encroachment and pollution of rivers surrounding the capital city.

Stating that the capital is already burdened with a population of 1.20 crore who will suffer catastrophic consequences in the coming days if such destruction of rivers continue, speakers said the movement should also incorporate restoration of the rivers across the country.

"We solely express solidarity with the initiative and will together augment the environment movement," said Professor Muzaffer Ahmad, chairman of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, one of the pioneering environment movements in the country.

He said that only a strong commitment from the relevant authorities could save the rivers across the country, which is lifeline of the country's economy, livelihood and agriculture.

He said rivers are dying today because the authorities did not pay heed to the environmentalists' cries earlier. He pointed out

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Eminent economist and noted environmentalist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad addresses a gathering at the photo exhibition organised as part of The Daily Star-Channel i joint initiative "To the Prime Minister: Save Rivers Save Dhaka" yesterday. Picture on the right shows two folk singers performing songs on rivers at Shatayu Angan of Ramna Park in the city.

PHOTO: STAR

## PM asks for quick steps to link country with Asian Highway

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the ministries concerned to take immediate steps to link Bangladesh with the Asian Highway Network (AHN) prior to debates about possible routes.

Chairing the cabinet meeting at the Secretariat, the prime minister also instructed the communications ministry to float tender for construction of the long awaited Padma Bridge immediately, meeting sources said.

The PM asked the communications minister to ensure that Bangladesh is a signatory to the AHN agreement first. "Then there can be debates about possible route changes," one of the ministers told The Daily Star quoting Hasina.

Bangladesh has held off signing the AHN agreement because of concerns that the super highway would serve as an Indian transit corridor since both entry and exit points of the proposed routes are on its border.

On the Padma Bridge, Hasina said the government is committed to constructing it. "We want to construct the bridge as

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## 4-PARTY RULE MPs of BNP, Jamaat got 104 plots out of 115

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 115 lawmakers during the BNP-led four-party rule were allotted plots in the city's Banani, Uttara and Purbachal areas, according to a list placed in parliament yesterday.

Of the recipients, 95 belonged to BNP, nine to its alliance partner Jamaat-e-Islami, five to Jatiya Party and six to the then main opposition Awami League (AL).

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan disclosed the list in response to a query from AL lawmaker Muhibur Rahman Manik.

The list includes a number of former ministers from BNP.

Khulna City Corporation's former mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, ex-state ministers Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin and Barkatullah Bulu, and the then prime minister's adviser Prof

Jahanara Begum got plots in the MP category, though they were not members of the eighth parliament.

With theirs, the total count of plots in this category stands at 119.

Ruling AL lawmakers yesterday alleged that a good number of the allottees had concealed that they already had land in Dhaka city.

On their request that the MPs owning no land in the capital be allotted plots, the state minister said those who have applied for plots in Purbachal and Uttara would be given land.

Replies to a query from Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal lawmaker Mainuddin Khan Badal, Mannan Khan said actions will be taken against illegal allotment, and an investigation is already underway.

Of the five-katha and 10-katha plots given to the then lawmakers, 43 are in Banani, 19 in

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## New admission policy to help rural students 12pc college seats in divisional cities to be kept reserved for them

WASIM BIN HABIB

More students from rural areas can now get admission to the renowned colleges in Dhaka and five divisional headquarters as 12 percent seats of these institutions will be reserved for the students from outside the divisional headquarters.

The rest 88 percent seats of those colleges in six divisional headquarters will be kept open for all students, according to the new policy for admission to colleges.

In the wake of serious crisis over admission to first choice colleges, the government yesterday issued the new policy for admission to the colleges of the country.

According to the new policy, 88 percent seats

in the colleges of the district towns except the divisional ones will be kept for all students and the rest 12 percent will be reserved for the students from outside the district headquarters.

The age factor of the students for getting admission to the colleges has been scrapped in the new policy, which states that the students would be enrolled both in public and private colleges on the basis of their merit and Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination result.

As many as 5,37,878 students under eight education boards passed this year's SSC examinations while a total of 45,934 students received the highest score of GPA-5.

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## 13 killed in Munshiganj bus plunge

UNB, Munshiganj

At least 13 people, including a BCL leader, were killed and 40 injured as a night coach plunged into a roadside ditch after hitting a motorcycle at Chhanbari in Sreenagar upazila on Sunday midnight.

Police said the Patukhali-bound bus from Dhaka rammed the motorcycle on the Dhaka-Mawa highway and swerved into the water-filled ditch along with around 50 passengers at about 11:45pm.

The two riders of the motorcycle - BCL Sreenagar upazila unit President Zakirul Haque Kushum, 32, and his friend Ariful Islam Ripon, 30, died on the spot in the fatal accident.

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PHOTO: SHAFIQUL ALAM

Workers of BIWTA yesterday demolish illegal structures of Tongi Municipality kitchen market that encroached upon the Turag.

## IO collects Pintu's call list of BDR mutiny time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) collected the call list of former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Pintu's cellphone during the BDR carnage, said an investigation report placed before a Dhaka court yesterday.

However, CID took Pintu on a three-day fresh remand for extracting information about the telephone conversation.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mominul Hassan passed the remand order after CID's Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Abdul Kahhar

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## Shafique seeks JS body to probe CG 'wrongdoings'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body could be formed consensually to investigate the last caretaker government's wrongdoings and initiate necessary actions, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister barrister Shafique Ahmed told parliament yesterday.

"All wrongdoings and illegal activities of the last caretaker government since January 11, 2007 should be investigated and tried so that none dares to conspire against our long cherished democracy in the future," the law minister said in a written statement.

The minister agreed with Awami League (AL) lawmaker AKM Rahmatullah's proposal placed in last session of the House for

## BNP should join JS

Observes EU Troika  
UNB, Dhaka

The main opposition party should participate in parliament to play a constructive role, said leader of the visiting EU Troika delegation Helena Bambasova last night.

Bambasova, deputy minister for foreign affairs of Czech Republic, made the remarks replying to a question from reporters after her meeting with BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia at the latter's Gulshan office.

"The opposition should

## Daud's agents received money from Pakistan Investigators detect regular transactions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives have found a good deal of money transactions from Pakistan to the arrested accomplices of underworld crime boss Daud Ibrahim through Western Union Money Transfer.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Inspector Mohammad Ashraf Hossain said one Fahim Mach Mach alias FM had recently sent Tk 1.5 lakh to National Bank, Mohammadpur branch, Abdul Rouf Daud Merchant, Zahid and Arif Hossain used to collect the money on monthly basis, he added.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) Mohammad

Mohibul Islam Khan of Detective Branch (DB) of police told The Daily Star that they would officially send letters to National Bank and Western Union to provide the names of people who received the money.

AC Mohibul said Daud Ibrahim and Chhota Shakil had been trying to establish their strong hold in Bangladesh after their crime empires in India, Pakistan, Dubai and Iran.

IO Ashraf said they are investigating whether the employees of Western Union Money Transfer and National Bank had any link with the gang while disbursing the amounts.

However, quoting bank sources he said they

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## Another BDR jawan dies in Rangamati

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawan died in Rangamati Sundari raising the death toll to 25 since March 9, 2009.

The deceased Mohammad Belal Hossain, 49, a driver in sector headquarters in Rangamati, collapsed while returning home after duty around 3:00pm, said a BDR press release.

He was rushed to Rangamati Sadar Hospital

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## Online Poll

The govt is likely to allow people to whiten undisclosed money with a flat 10 percent tax. Would you endorse this move?

Yes (35.84%)

No (60.61%)

No Comments (3.57%)

Total votes: 759

TODAY'S POLL

Bangladesh Army wants to form a special unit to ensure the country's internal security and tackle incidents like mutinies and bombings quickly. Do you support the move?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

## Prayer Timing

June 9		
Azan	Jamaat	
4-05	4-40	
12-45	1-15	
5-00	5-15	
6-45	6-50	
8-15	8-45	

Source: Islamic Foundation