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Teesta differences 'narrowed down'

Water talks end with consensus on joint efforts to save riverbanks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Indo-Bangla Joint River Commission's secretary-level talks in Dhaka have resolved some issues but could not reach a consensus on sharing of the Teesta water.

After the two-day meeting ended yesterday, both sides however claimed to have narrowed down differences on the all-important Teesta

issue and agreed to settle it expeditiously.

Sources following the discussions at close quarters hint that a deal might be finalised during the prime minister's upcoming visit to India.

At a joint press briefing at state guesthouse Meghna, delegations of the two countries said dredging of the Ichamati river and the work on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

HC hearing on writ against PSC starts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday started hearing a 12-year-old writ petition that challenged the government move to sign production-sharing contracts (PSCs) with foreign gas and oil exploration companies.

Former secretary Shah Abdur Hannan, columnist Sadek Khan, journalist Amanullah Kabir, and Prof. Abdur Rob jointly filed the writ petition with the High Court

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Industries to stop once a week

Businessmen respond to proposal for easing gas crisis

SHARIEF KHAN

Industries grouped in seven zones will remain shut once a week from now on --each zone in turn--to help ease the acute gas supply crisis, Petrobangla sources said yesterday.

In the face of the gas crisis, business leaders agreed to this Petrobangla proposal at a meeting.

They felt that the authorities should have gone for such gas rationing before the winter set in to lessen the crisis.

The country suffers gas supply crisis every winter. But this time the crisis has become severe.

The fresh step would give some relief to households in the capital and its outskirts, which are fully dependent on gas-fired stoves for cooking. But Petrobangla officials say more measures are needed to improve gas supply to an acceptable level.

Petrobangla held the meeting with business leaders in view of proposals from Titas Gas

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Watch out!

The Daily Star and Nielsen Bangladesh have jointly conducted an opinion poll on the performances of the government and the opposition in the last one year.

The full survey report will be published in The Daily Star as a four-page special supplement on Friday.

The political survey, the fourth in The Daily Star-Nielsen series, asked 3,000 persons across Bangladesh interesting questions like how they rate the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Non-biodegradable materials and sewage are being dumped in the Buriganga at Keraniganj just across the river from Ahsan Manzil triggering questions as to what improvement the BIWTA wish to achieve through its Buriganga clean-up drive that begins today.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Buriganga cleaning begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) is going to launch a drive to remove the garbage including polythene from the bed of the Buriganga today.

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan is expected to inaugurate the drive near the Badamtali Bridge.

Around 150 labourers and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

No room for terror

PM says Bangladesh land can't be used for terrorism in another country

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she would not invite trouble for the country by allowing militants and terrorists to use Bangladesh for carrying out terrorism in another country.

"They [militants and terrorists] will use the land of Bangladesh to conduct their terrorism

in another country and we will create enmity by harbouring them -- this cannot be," she said.

The PM said this while addressing top police officials at her office in observance of the Police Week.

Hasina said she knows that there are so many risks for such kind of stance. "I know there are risks. I also have life threat but for the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Commentary

FIRST YEAR OF HASINA'S SECOND TENURE AS PM

A year of bold initiatives and timid implementation

MAHFUZ ANAM

What truly separates an Awami League government from others is its emphasis on agriculture and food self-sufficiency. This probably comes from the party's

grassroots base, a totally committed minister like Matia Chowdhury and Sheikh Hasina's own personality. Sheikh Hasina naturally inclines towards the poor when formulating her own priorities. As in her first term, so also now, from

day one Sheikh Hasina's government made food security and agricultural productivity its foremost priority. Starting from availability of agricultural credit,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

SEE EDITORIAL AND SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

16 cops hurt in Aug 21 attack awarded

46 other police, Rab men get medals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty-two police and Rab members, including 16 policemen who were injured in the August 21 grenade attack, were decorated with 'Bangladesh Police Medal' and the President's Police Medal.

After inaugurating the 'Police Week-2010' at Rajarbagh Police Lines, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina put the members of the law enforcement agencies on medals.

The 16 policemen were injured in a grenade attack on Awami League rally on August 21, 2004 while they were on duty.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

5TH AMENDMENT SC to hear stay pleas on Jan 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday scheduled January 18 for hearing two petitions seeking reinstatement of a stay order on the High Court (HC) verdict that had declared the fifth amendment to the country's constitution illegal.

With the two new petitions, a total of four petitions against

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

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