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# Mistrust must go to open new era of ties

Professionals hope for a fruitful India visit of PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different professionals have expressed the hope the prime minister's visit to India would end existing "mistrust" and "non-cooperation" in resolving the problems in trade, maritime boundary, border management, regional connectivity and sharing waters.

Through the visit a new window of relationship will open where the two countries would positively consider each other's interests and settle all disputes, they said at a roundtable styled Bangladesh-India Relations: Exploring New Horizons.

Four separate papers were presented at the roundtable organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) at its auditorium. BISS Director General Maj Gen

Sheikh Md Monirul Islam gave the welcome speech, while its Board of Governors Chairman Maj Gen Muhammad Firdaus Mian delivered the vote of thanks. Chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Prof Rehman Sobhan chaired the function.

In his presentation on Bangladesh-India Relations: Sharing of the Waters of Common Rivers, former foreign secretary Muhammad Zamir presented an overview of common rivers, sharing waters of the Ganges and Teesta and construction of the proposed Tipaimukh dam by India and its impacts on Bangladesh.

"Due to continuous withdrawal of waters through the Farakka Barrage for last 31 years, a significant number of rivers of the Padma basin in Bangladesh have already turned dead," he said, adding the Gorai, a pre-Farakka mighty river,

is almost dead now.

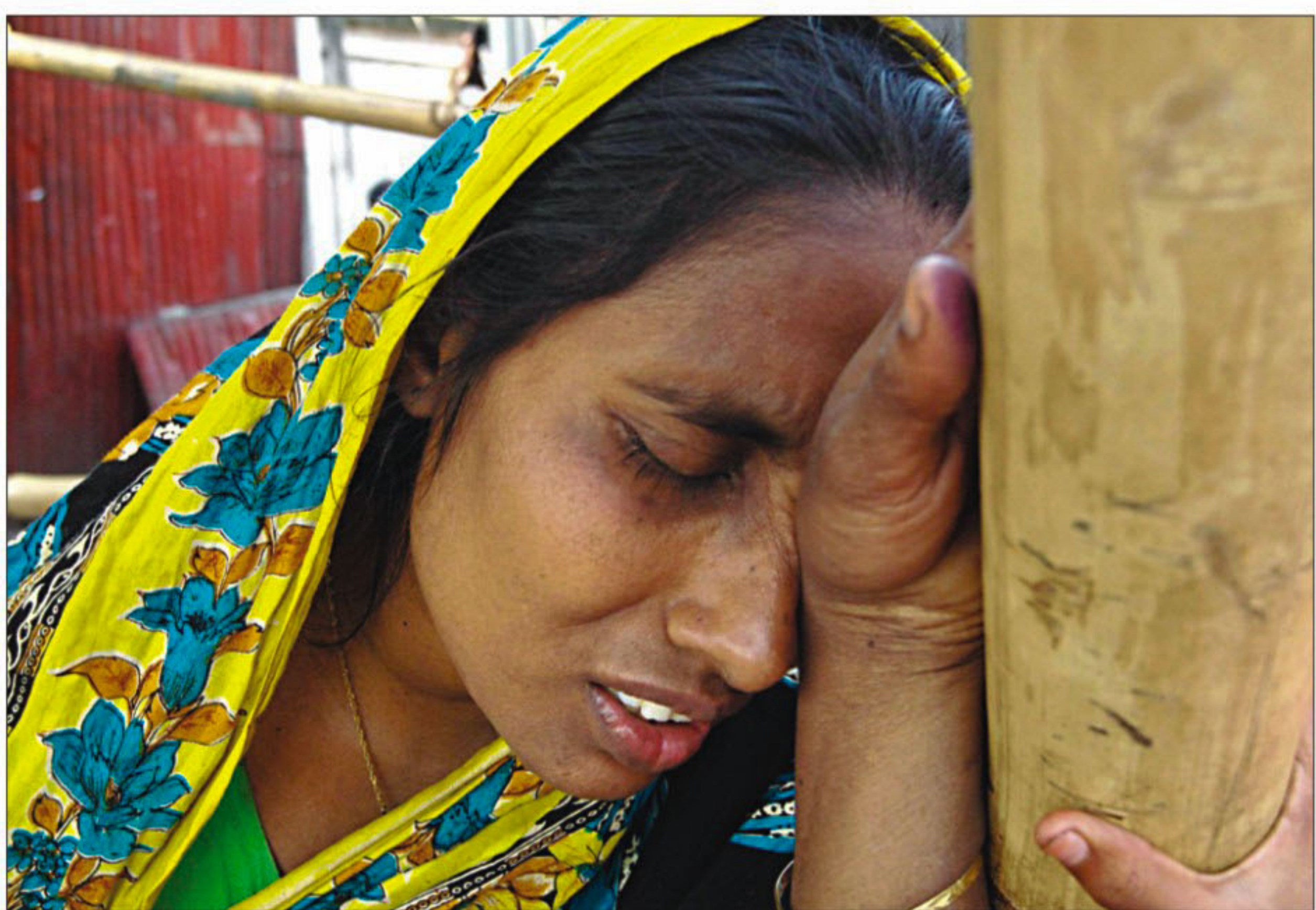
The former diplomat said India approved the proposed Tipaimukh dam without sharing sufficient technological data with Bangladesh. "This has been contrary to international practice," he pointed out.

He added the proposed dam will drastically and adversely alter river flow in the downstream and also have hydrological, morphological and ecological consequences during both the monsoon and dry season.

On sharing waters of the Teesta, he expressed the hope differences in this regard will narrow down after the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and both the countries would sign a deal.

Adviser of Saarc Chamber of Commerce and Industries and former

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Jahanara Begum breaks down while receiving aid from an organisation yesterday. The fierce fire that broke out in South Begunbari slum Friday evening burned down the shanty where used to dwell with her husband, two children, and sister.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

## BSF kills 2

STAR REPORT

Two Bangladeshi cattle traders were killed by Indian Border Security Force in Chapainawabganj and Benapole yesterday.

In Chapainawabganj, BSF opened fire on Monirul Islam, 23, as he went near Singnagar frontier in Shibganj upazila at about 7:00am, leaving him dead on the spot.

Bangladesh Rifles sent a protest letter to the BSF over the killing of Monirul, son of Abdul Qaiyum of Tarapur village in Shibganj, reports our Chapainawabganj correspondent.

A correspondent from SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## VIOLENCE AT RAJSHAHI POLYTECHNIC

# AL failed to tame BCL despite cops' warning

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Despite forewarning from the local police administration about Bangladesh Chhatra League's preparation for an attack, the ruling party leadership in Rajshahi failed to tame their student wing resulting in Chhatra Moitree leader Sunny's death on Thursday.

Speaking on condition of anonymity two senior police officials told The Daily Star yesterday that law enforcers told Awami League leadership beforehand about muscle flexing of Chhatra League activists on the Rajshahi

Polytechnic Institute campus.

"As we could sense an imminent danger from some recent incidents we warned local ruling party leaders and requested them to control their student organisation at polytechnic institute," a senior police official here said preferring anonymity.

A bomb went off on January 3 as activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League were making bombs at a Chhatra League-dominated dorm as part of their preparation for a clash, he said.

"Sensing something ominous we deployed

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## Jyoti Basu's condition worsens

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Kolkata

The condition of Marxist patriarch Jyoti Basu deteriorated Saturday with the doctors saying the 95-year-old leader has slipped into drowsiness and his internal organs were affected.

"There has been deterioration of his general condition," said a medical bulletin of the AMRI Hospital, where Basu is being kept in the Intensive Cardiac Care Unit (ICCU) on partial ventilator support.

"He has developed fluid

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## Cherie Blair calls for investing in women education

### Launches fellowship for AUW students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Cherie Blair, wife of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, called for investing in women education as she launched a fellowship programme at the Asian University for Women (AUW) in the port city yesterday.

The Cherie Blair Fellowship has been introduced to support women education and help women work side by side with men. "Build yourselves overcoming all the difficulties to develop potential and take the challenges of 21st century," Cherie called upon the students at the fellowship launching ceremony held at the AUW Access Academy on MM Ali Road.

She said investing in women education produces educated women, who can present the society with educated children of sound health and mind.

In the UK universities, girls and boys are equal in number and girls are doing better in many cases, said Cherie who is also a leading international lawyer and human rights advocate.

While sharing her own experience, Cherie said where she is now is just because of her family support that helped her to go to the university.

The gender gap has been narrowed in the UK and the US while in Asia and Africa women are still treated as minorities, she added.

Earlier on the day, the students greeted Cherie with a cultural function. They performed with the spirit of sharing cultural essence and commitment for building up a better world

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## Allowance for elderly to be raised

### Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has a plan to increase the allowance for the elderly people, said Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday.

A law will be enacted, if necessary, to enhance facilities for the old-age people, he said at a discussion on Lives of the Elderly People organised by Health and Hope, a pro-people health professionals' organisation, at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

The government increased the allowance from Tk 250 to Tk 300 in July last year, Lelin Chowdhury, member secretary of Health and Hope, told The Daily Star.

The minister said the ministries concerned may issue executive orders to ensure that the senior citizens of the country get reserved seats in public transport and health care facilities in both public and private hospitals at a minimum cost.

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

A car takes a u-turn on a road near Farmgate police box in the capital yesterday though the sign seen in the picture prohibits doing it.

## US PLANE BOMBING PLOT Nigerian suspect pleads not guilty

AFP, Detroit

Hobbled by leg irons, a young Nigerian accused of trying to blow up a US plane on Christmas Day pleaded not guilty during his first court appearance amid heightened security.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, 23, spoke softly from the dock Friday to confirm his name, how it was spelt and his age. His expression flat, his eyes averted from the gathered crowd, he

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## Rockets hit US site in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul/London

Rockets fired at a building that will house the US consulate in the western Afghan city of Herat damaged two floors but caused no casualties, an Afghan official said yesterday.

The US embassy in Kabul confirmed an incident at the consulate site, but could not immediately provide any details.

"Three rockets were fired at the US consulate, two hit the third and fourth floors, another missed the compound completely," said Akramuddin Yawar, police chief for the country's western zone.

No one was injured, he said, adding the incident happened at 9.20 pm (0450 GMT) Friday.

The building, formerly a five-star hotel, was acquired by the US government to be re-opened as a consulate once renovations are completed.

The United States is set to deploy another 30,000 troops to Afghanistan to fight the Taliban-led insurgency, with Nato partners set to add 7,000 over the course of this year. Together the US and Nato already have 113,000 troops in the country.

A tandem "civilian surge" is also underway, as Washington brings in experts as part of a new war strategy shifting from battlefield focus to development and aid.

US government employees based in Afghanistan are set to triple in number over coming months to more than 1,000,

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The school holiday is over and it's time for EIS page to come back. Starting January 11, 2010 find your EIS page every Monday on page 14 of The Daily Star.

**OnlinePoll**

Do you see any positive change in the activities of Bangladesh Chhatra League since Sheikh Hasina left as its organisational head?

Yes (8.30%)  
 No (89.99%)  
 No Comments (1.71%)

**Total votes: 759**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think it is the right way for a minister like Syed Ashraf to disclose at a roundtable sensitive information of a "secret meeting" between Pervez Musharraf and Anup Chetia during the BNP rule?

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

**Prayer Timing**

January 10

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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