

Over 300 Bangladesh rivers hard hit by climate change

Hasina tells Kuwait Emir's sister

UNB, Kuwait City

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has invited sister of Kuwait Emir, Anthal Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, to visit Bangladesh for having a look regarding the adverse effect of climate change in the most vulnerable countries like Bangladesh.

She made the invitation when Anthal called on the PM at her suite at Bayan Palace Sunday evening.

Anthal, who is also an environment activist, accepted the PM's invitation and expressed her desire to visit Bangladesh at her convenient time.

The premier during the meeting expressed her deep concern regarding the adverse effect of climate change and expressed her desire to work together with Anthal.

In this connection, Hasina apprised Anthal that more than 300 rivers of

Bangladesh have seriously been affected due to the climate change.

She said that her government had taken a number of steps to overcome the adverse effect of the climate change.

No nation will be able to fight alone against a big issue like the climate change, Hasina said.

In this connection, the PM said that in the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference last year she urged the world community, especially the developed countries, to come forward and help the MVCs.

She said that during the Climate Change Conference she demanded that Bangladesh and MVCs must be provided with compensatory grant and easily accessible adequate fund to meet the full cost of adaptation to climate change.

She also urged the world nations to rise above perceived and petty national

interests in the greater interest of the existence of this mother planet.

Regarding the fund, she said disbursement of the fund must take into account the extent of vulnerability to climate change, the size of population exposed to risk, adaptation initiatives by countries concerned.

Terming the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Kuwait as excellent, Hasina hoped that it would be further strengthened in days to come.

Younger sister of the Prime Minister Sheikh Rehana, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud, Bangladesh Ambassador in Kuwait Shahed Reza and PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, among others, were present during the meeting.



Kuwait Parliament Speaker Jassem Al-Kharafi calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Parliament Bhaban in Kuwait City yesterday.

SA GAMES Two roads closed to traffic today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The roads from Dainik Bangla intersection to Paltan intersection and from Dainik Bangla intersection to Shilpa Bank Bhaban will be closed to traffic from 1:00pm to 8:00pm today due to the closing ceremony of the 11th South Asian Games, a press release of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) said.

The DMP has advised the people to use other roads instead of the two roads during the period.

DMP also urged all concerned not to park any vehicles on the Rajuk Avenue, Janata Bank area, Dilkusha Road and Baitul Mukarram-GPO link road during the period.

DMP regrets the inconvenience caused by the temporary closure of the roads.

Religious leadership key to success in dev: McHale

BSS, Dhaka

Visiting US Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Judith A McHale yesterday said religious leadership is key to success in every effort for socio-economic development.

McHale said this while she was exchanging views with Anwar Hossain Molla, principal of Uttar Badda Islamia Kamil Madrasa at Gulshan in the city.

Joe Mellott, Andrew Cedar and Corley Kenna -- three other members of the delegation -- were present. Director of the American Centre, Dhaka, Lauren Lovelace, Programme Development Adviser of the US Embassy Sabreea S Rahman and officials of the embassy accompanied the delegation.

Briefing about the madrasa's educational programmes, Anwar said students of the institution have been grooming up with modern education together with religious morality.

Side by side with the existing education, he said, many a number of motivational

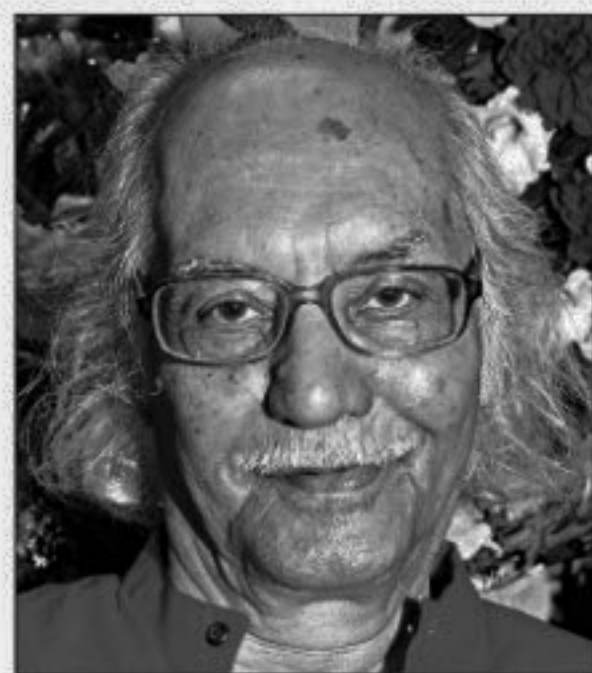
programmes such as HIV/AIDS, basic literacy, human resource development and ICT are among the programmes of the madrasa.

Asked whether any English language course is being conducted in the madrasa, the madrasa principal said the students are learning the essential English lesson through Language Proficiency Centre (LPC), a US-funded micro-scholarship programme.

McHale Judith termed the education as an investment for future and said learning English has become inevitable for students to cope with the present world order.

Responding to a query on the role of religious leaders to check militancy and terrorism, she said terrorism and militancy became common enemies in the world. The madrasa students would be able to root out the menaces by equipping themselves with modern education, she hoped.

"There is an ample scope to work Bangladesh and the US for ensuring peace and maintaining security and strengthening the democracy," said McHale.



Birth anniversary of Prof Kabir Chowdhury today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 88th birth anniversary of National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, a renowned educationist and pioneer in the movement against fundamentalism and communalism, says a press release.

Different social and cultural organisations will greet him on the occasion at his residence at Gazi Bhaban in the city at 4:00pm.

Born in 1923 in Bramhanbaria district, Kabir Chowdhury began his long and illustrious career as a teacher in Pabna Edward College.

He also served in Rajshahi Government College, Dhaka College, BM College in Barisal and Anandamohan College in Mymensingh.

He wrote over 200 books.

UK student visa system rife with cheats Says Bangladeshi migrant

ANI, London

Britain's student visa system has been denounced as rife with "cheating and deception" by a teacher who has experienced the process from within.

The Daily Express quoted Mohammed Aslam Farook, from Bangladesh, as saying he saw at first-hand how a private language college was "little more than a fast-track route for immigrants wanting to get to Britain."

He believes the Government's "reckless and incompetent immigration policies seem to favour the most corrupt and dishonest".

His compelling warning came as the Government announced new measures designed to tighten loopholes in the student visa system.

Home Secretary Alan Johnson claimed that the numbers of students coming to the UK would be slashed by more rigorous application rules.

But a letter from Farook to Tory Shadow Home Secretary Chris Grayling suggested the entire British student visa system "favours the fraudsters rather than decent people".

He wrote: "These policies have created an underground culture of deception, cheating, pretence, duplicity and fraud. I am still at a loss to understand why an enlightened and wealthy nation allows such things to continue."

Farook spent 8,000 pounds to come to study English at a language college in east London in the hope of furthering his teaching career in Bangladesh.

He discovered the college was little more than "an easy entry to the UK for people seeking to work".

Little teaching was offered and staff appeared to openly accept the "students" were simply using the institution to get a visa.

'Political unity a must to fight climate change'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political leaders, academicians and environmentalists at a seminar yesterday said there is no alternative to political unity in order to protect the country from the adverse impacts of climate change.

All, irrespective of political leanings and ideologies, should come forward to press the demand for compensation for the ravages of climate change, they said.

South Asia Watch (SAW), an international organisation for

human rights, organised the seminar on 'Climate change and human rights: The global context' at the Jatiya Press Club in the city, with Shahid Uddin Ahmed, former vice chancellor of Dhaka University, in the chair.

Speaking as the chief guest, ASM Firoz, whip of parliament, called on all, irrespective of political viewpoints, to come onto a single platform to fight the climate change.

BNP standing committee member Lt Gen (Retd) Mahbubur Rahman said

climate change poses threat to our survival, as the southern part of the country will go under water within next 50 years due to climate change.

Prof Mizanur Rahman said fund collection is not the main problem. Rather, proper utilisation of the funds has to be ensured.

Awami League lawmaker Shubid Ali Bhuiyan, SAW Secretary General Shahidul Islam Talukder and Chairman of SAW, Europe chapter, Rezaul Hossain Tapan also spoke.

DU staff hurt in accidental firing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University employee was shot at the Janata Bank's Dhaka Medical College Hospital Branch when a security guard fired his rifle accidentally yesterday.

The injured was identified as Zakir Hossain, 40, a peon of Fazlul Hossain Hall of Dhaka University. He went to the bank to withdraw money around 2:00pm, injured Zakir said.

The bullet suddenly hit Zakir's left hand while he was in the queue to withdraw the money. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Domestic help dies in rooftop fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage domestic help died after falling from the rooftop of a sixth-storied apartment at Gulshan in the city yesterday afternoon.

The dead was identified as Bina Akhter, 18, who hailed from Kishoreganj.

She started working as a domestic help at the house of Syed Rana Mustafa, a presenter of a private television channel and editor and publisher of the Orthakatha, at Road 33, Gulshan 1.

Officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station, Kamal Uddin told The Daily Star

yesterday that the girl fell from the rooftop of the apartment at about 1:30pm on the roof of an adjacent two-storied building, leaving her dead on the spot.

A small bag containing combs, towel and her other stuff useful material was found near the body of the girl.

Police suspected that she might have committed suicide or fallen from the rooftop while trying to escape from the house.

Her body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Performance, not politics

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eration in MPO enlistment, he said.

He said around 3,118 headmasters of lower secondary schools, 12,400 assistant headmasters of secondary schools and 5,141 superintendents and 5,141 assistant superintendents of Dakhil madrasas will get their salary under the recently upgraded payscale.

The minister pointed out many issues, including distribution of textbooks, terminal examinations in class VIII and creative question method.

Regarding textbook distribution, he said though textbooks were distributed in the remote areas of the country in time, some problems occurred in distributing books in Dhaka.

Holding the district education officer (DEO) of Dhaka responsible for the problems, the minister said despite having books in his office, the DEO made a delay to distribute the textbooks for serving his bad intention.

"It would be difficult to find any institution which did not get books by now," he said adding the institutions that gave their demands to the respective education offices have received books.

About the terminal examination, he said like primary terminal exams the government has decided to take a public examination for class VIII to ensure standard of education and reduce dropout rate.

A student has to wait for six years to get SSC certificate but the government will give certificates in class VIII to encourage poor parents to let their children study further,

Nahid said.

The examination would create a pressure on the students, teachers and schools to obtain better results, as it would be held simultaneously across the country using same question papers, he said.

About the creative question method, he said students will be tested in two subjects-- Bangla 1st paper and religious studies-- using the new method for the first time in the upcoming SSC examination.

The government, however, has decided not to introduce the creative question method for mathematics in the SSC examinations to be held in 2011, he added.

Education Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman and high officials of the ministry were present at the press conference.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 574 Uttar Shahjahanpur in the city.

Titu, a student of Rajshahi University, was shot dead by a gang of miscreants on this day in 1996 during the non-cooperation movement.

Art exhibition begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-day 'Open Air Solo Art Exhibition' by artist Munwar Mehedi began at Chhabir Hat opposite the art faculty of Dhaka University yesterday.

A total of 22 paintings and other art works have been put on display. The exhibition will remain open up to February 11.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Md Abdur Rashid, former lawmaker from

Ranganj in Laxmipur district and member of Constitution Formulation Committee, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his house Naynaneer, House#36, Road#1, Bolck#1 Banani in the city after Maghrib prayers.

Begum Hamida Huq

METRO DESK



Today is the 13th death anniversary of Begum Hamida Huq, a freedom fighter and

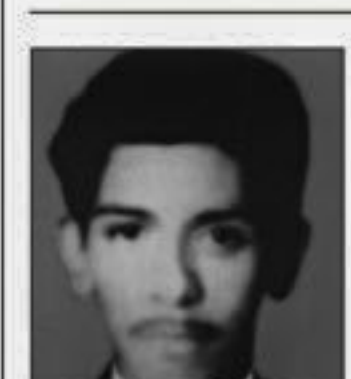
wife of wife of Rafiqul Huq Dadubhai, says a press release.

Hamida passed away in this day in 1997 at a hospital in New York.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani, milad and doa mahfil will be held at her residence at central Bashaboo in the city today.

Nahidul Haque Khan

METRO DESK



Today is the 14th death anniversary of Nahidul Haque Khan (Titu), says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 574 Uttar Shahjahanpur in the city.

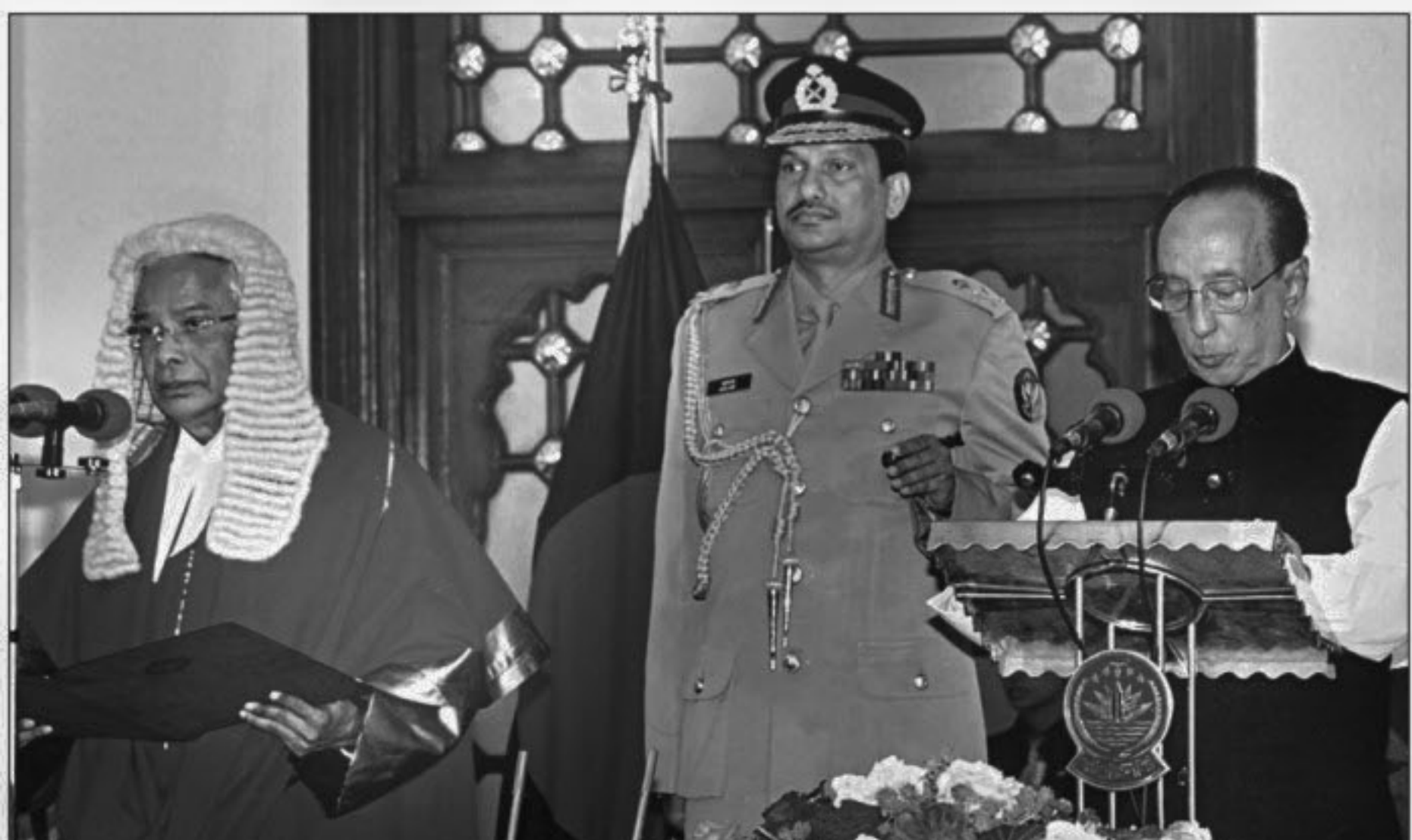
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President Zillur Rahman administers the oath of office to newly appointed Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Call to demolish unauthorised structures to recover canals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists at a human chain yesterday demanded demolition of the BGMEA Bhaban, which was built on Hatirjheel at Karwan Bazar, saying that the demolition will pave the way for removal of 5,000 unauthorised structures to recover 43 canals in the city.

Citizens Rights Movement, Seba, Green Voice and Sundar Jiban organised the human chain in front of the BGMEA Bhaban at Karwan Bazar. Later, they also submitted a memorandum to the chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha (Rajuk) to press for their demand, says a press release.

The green activists said if the BGMEA

Bhaban is demolished, it will be easier for the authorities to evict the owners of 5,000 unauthorised structures.

They also demanded punishment to corrupt Rajuk officials and enactment and enforcement of a strict law to prevent grabbing of water bodies.

Citizens Rights Movement secretary general Tushar Rehman presented a keynote paper at the programme presided over by its senior vice-president Maj (retd) Mafizul Haque Sarker.

Former secretary Syed Marghub Morshed, engineer Dr Md Enamul Haque, chairman of Save the Environ Movement Abu Nasser Khan, and joint secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon Mihir Biswas also spoke at the human chain programme.

7th anniversary of Bangalee Shamagra tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangalee Shamagra, a museum dedicated to preserving the works of best Bangalees, will celebrate its seventh anniversary tomorrow.

On the occasion, the museum will hold the publication ceremony of a book entitled 'Puber Janala', an autobiography of the first Bangalee Muslim artist Kazi Abul Kasem. Prof Kabir Chowdhury will launch the book at Nazrul Mancha at the Bangla Academy.

Drama personality Atiqul Haque Chowdhury, litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque, Prof Anisuzzaman and Director General of Bangla Academy Shamsuzzaman Khan will speak at the programme.

'Stop inappropriate use of Bangla on radio, TV'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangla language has been used in an inappropriate way in some programmes on private television channels and FM radio channels, cultural personality and lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor said yesterday.

Steps should be taken to promote the correct and meaningful use of Bangla, he said and urged the cultural activists to stop improper use of Bangla on radio and television.

Noor said this at the inaugural ceremony of Amar Ekushey programmes organ-

ised by the Sammlita Sangskritik Jote at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith inaugurated the fortnight-long cultural programme.

He said Ekushey helped forge the national unity, which ultimately played an important role in the struggle for the country's independence.

Prof Anisuzzaman, cultural personality Ramendu Majumder, Liakat Ali Laki, Golam Kuddus and Hasan Arif also spoke at the inaugural ceremony presided over by Sangskritik Jote President Nasiruddin Yusuf Bacchu.