



CPB President Monjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim inaugurate a programme marking the 100 years of International Women's Day at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday.

# Dhaka, Delhi to reach agreement for equitable river water sharing

Gowher Rizvi tells Indian newspaper

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladesh and India have agreed to jointly collect hydrological data and enter into an ad-hoc agreement on rivers water sharing, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's adviser Gowher Rizvi said in an interview published in a leading Indian newspaper yesterday.

"Our starting point in the discussion was that shortage of water is hurting people on both sides. The rivers that run through our countries cannot be managed, trained or harnessed in piecemeal efforts by different countries but rather through a joint strategy for

managing the entire basin," Rizvi told the Times of India.

"The rivers from head to mouth are one single entity and have to be managed as such. Water distribution has to be fair and equitable. So, we have agreed to jointly collect hydrological data and enter into ad hoc interim agreements."

His remarks came ahead of a proposed meeting of India-Bangladesh Joint River Commission here sometime this month to discuss an interim agreement on sharing of Teesta river.

Rizvi said the agreements on security, border demarcation, trade, connectivity,

environment, water and investments signed during Hasina's visit to India in January "are historic and wide-ranging. In fact, this agreement has been correctly described as 'transformative' and a 'game changer'."

On border-related issues, he said, "We want to transform the border of confrontation and conflict into one of peace and prosperity. We have reached substantive agreements on border demarcation, on adverse possessions and for solving the problem of access to enclaves. We are actively working on the demarcation of the last few miles of the border. We hope to

complete the border agreements in the next three months."

He also said, "We are working to make sure that our border security personnel engage in confidence-building measures and commanders hold flag meetings periodically to resolve outstanding issues before they actually flare up into cross-border firings."

Asked about relations between the two countries, Rizvi said India has offered one billion dollars in concessional loan to Bangladesh "that would have been difficult to imagine a few years ago. India will help

Bangladesh build and upgrade its transport infrastructure, which will benefit both countries. The move to give 250 megawatt of electricity as a priority will help to speed up industrialisation in Bangladesh. This is just the beginning. The agreement should be seen as an investment in our vision for the future of South Asia."

He also said, "Bangladesh hopes India would give us unrestricted access to its huge market and unilaterally allow us duty-free access. The prosperity and stability of Bangladesh is just as much in India's interest as it is in our own."

## ZIA ORPHANAGE CASE Hearing on charge framing adjourned

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again adjourned the hearing on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, her elder son Tarique Rahman and four others until April 21 in the Tk 2.10 crore embezzlement case.

Judge Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge Court-3 passed the order after Khaleda's and Tarique's lawyer submitted separate petitions seeking adjournment of the hearing.

The ACC filed the case on July 3, 2008 with Ramna Police Station in connection with embezzlement of over Tk 2.10 crore through formation of the Zia Orphanage Trust.

Khaleda could not appear before the court as she was busy with parliament session while Tarique Rahman, also senior vice-chairman of BNP, have been staying abroad for treatment. Advocate Sanaullah Miah had been representing Tarique in his absence.

The two others accused -- former BNP lawmaker Kazi Saleemul Haq Kamal and Sharfuddin Ahmed -- also did not appear in the court yesterday.

The court had earlier decided to continue the trial in absence of two other accused -- former principal secretary Dr Kamal Uddin Siddique and former president late Ziaur Rahman -- as they have been absconding since the case was filed against them.

The Anti-Corruption Commission on August 5 last year pressed charges against Khaleda Zia, Tarique Rahman and four others, showing 39 people as prosecution witnesses.

Later, Siddiqui's name was included in the charge sheet while names of two other accused Syed Ahmed alias Sayeed Ahmed and Gias Uddin Ahmed were dropped as they were in London at that time.

On September 7 last year, the trial court took into cognizance the charges against Khaleda Zia, Tarique and four others.

## BRAC UNIVERSITY Dr Timothy new dean of School of Public Health

METRO DESK

Brac University has appointed Dr Timothy G Evans, former assistant director-General of WHO, as the dean of the James P Grant School of Public Health, says a press release.

Under the terms of his appointment, Dr Evans will be succeeded by Brac University from ICDDR,B where he recently accepted a position.

Prior to joining ICDDR,B, Dr Evans led the World Health Organisation's work on Information Evidence and Research. He served as an assistant director general from 2003 onwards. He will continue to support ICDDR,B as a senior strategic adviser on Knowledge Translation.

Dr Evans will take up his new position as the dean from July 1.

# Abubakar died after being hit by hard object

Reveals DU probe body

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) authorities will request the police administration to conduct an investigation involving ballistic experts to identify the 'object' that hit Abubakar Siddique in the head, causing his death.

Abubakar, a 3rd year student of Islamic History and Culture, received injuries during the clash and succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on February 3.

The DU authorities took the decision as the nine-member committee, formed to probe the death of the student, in its report could not identify the object that hit the back of his head during a factional clash of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Sir AF Rahman Hall on February 2.

"We will request the police administration to conduct an investigation into the incident in their own fashion to see the police role during the incident and find out the object that hit Abubakar," said Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

The report was placed before the university syndicate on Tuesday and it has accused 10

resident students who belong to the BCL politics at the hall responsible for the incident.

The summary of the probe report said, "Based on evidence, data and information, the committee is confirmed that Abubakar did not die following hit by bullet or sharp weapons. He died after being hit by a hammer, a brick, a rod or any other hard object... among hard objects possibility of teargas shell is there."

A mystery still shrouds over the object that caused Abubakar's death as the post-mortem reports said that he was hit by blunt object while his roommates claimed that a teargas shell hit him.

The committee found no active hall administration at the dormitory and said the administration cannot avoid the responsibility for the incident that occurred inside the hall that day.

The probe body opined that such violence might recur unless the control of the administration over the hall is ensured and 'seat' politics by students is stopped.

The decay as well as demoralisation of student politics can partly be understood from this report, the body added.

Based on the report, the DU syndicate expelled 10 accused BCL men temporarily from the university.

# Call to ensure proper waste management in St Martin's

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Coastal Area Resources Development and Management Association (CARDMA), an environmental organisation, called on the government to stop all kinds of buying and selling of land in the St Martin's island and ensure its proper waste management.

As part of the observance of International Year of Biodiversity, CARDMA has

prepared a report about the threats on the island that was declared ecologically critical area by the government.

The organisation presented a report at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city on Tuesday.

It pointed out that the main threats to the island, including oil as well as heavy metal pollution, sewage and chemical pollution from fertiliser run-off leading to coral

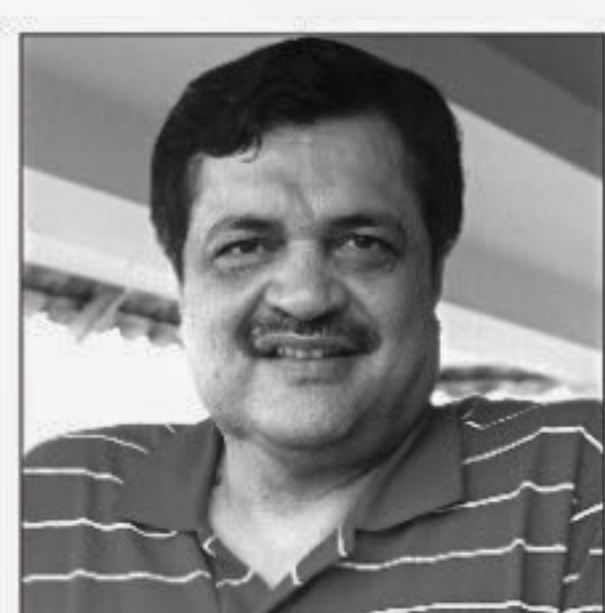
destruction, construction of hotels and buildings, coral extraction under sea for building materials and souvenir trade and loss of habitat and sanctuary for marine life dependent on the island's ecosystem.

Apart from the report, CARDMA has conducted some awareness programme as part of the observance such as holding rallies, exhibition of paintings by children.



Participants of a training programme on fundamental human resource management and development pose for photograph with the guests at a certificate distribution ceremony at the training centre of A4 Consultants in the city recently. A4 Consultants organised the training course.

PHOTO: COURTESY



## Obituary

METRO DESK

Manu, son of late Moazzam Hussain Chowdhury (Manu), a director of the Chinese restaurant 'Bamboo Shoot' on Gulshan Avenue, passed away at the Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday at the age of 57, says a press release.

He had been suffering from chronic emphysema.

Manu, who completed his MBA from Dhaka University's Institute of Business Administration (IBA) in 1977, was also a former banker with the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) and the IFIC Bank.

He also played for the elite Azad Boys cricket team of yesterday.

Manu, son of late Moazzam Hussain Chowdhury, left behind his wife Gazala Chowdhury and three children -- Mehran, Ashna and Fareha -- and a host of relatives and friends.

Manu touched the lives of many people with his love and generosity.

His quikhwani will be held on Saturday, March 6, after Asr prayers at Gulshan Azad Mosque.

All are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Anup Kumar Barua

UNB, Dhaka

Anup Kumar Barua, director of Uttara Group, passed away at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 65.

Anup Kumar left behind his wife, a son and a daughter.

Begum Khurshid Akhter

METRO DESK

Begum Khurshid Akhter, wife of late Abul Quasem, breathed her last on Tuesday, says a press release.

She left behind four children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and a host of admirers to mourn her death.

Her quikhwani will be held on March 5 after Asr prayers at her son's residence at Road - 7, House - 15, Dynasty Apartments, Gulshan - 1.

# Multistoried bldgs for Biharis soon

UNB, Dhaka

About four decades of a cursed life in the gutters for the 'stranded Pakistanis' is now going to get a new lease, as the government will build multistoried modern apartments for them at the Geneva Camp in the city's Mohammadpur area.

The Urdu-speaking people, who had migrated from India into the then East Pakistan here following the 1947 partition of the subcontinent at the end of colonial British rule, opted for rehabilitation in Pakistan after Bangladesh's independence.

But, after the repatriation of some batches, Islamabad didn't take the remaining ones left out in camps 39 years back.

The apartments would be built by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) at a cost of Tk 1259.62 crore in the existing camp area for better rehabilitation of the god-forsaken people who have now been granted citizenship of Bangladesh by a High Court ruling given in 2008, ending long-lasting arguments over their status.

The government plan was revealed yesterday at a presentation on the Geneva Camp Multi-story Building Construction Project at the conference room of LGRD Ministry at the secretariat.

LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam attended the presentation ceremony as the chief guest while his deputy Jahangir Kabir Nanak was

present as special guest.

A total of 45 buildings will be constructed under the project to accommodate 38,500 Biharis of 5,667 families. Each building will have the capacity to accommodate 126 families.

The proposed project needs 44.14 bighas of land for the multistoried apartment houses in the existing camp area adjacent to Humayun Road and Town Hall.

The size of each unit of the proposed apartments would be 575 square-feet with two bedrooms, a toilet, a common space and a kitchen.

Speaking at the function, the LGRD minister directed the DCC authorities to prepare the project more specifically for placing it in the ECNEC meeting for quick approval.

The proposed housing enclave will have 52 per cent open space and the ground floor of every building will be kept open for setting up an educational institution, mosque, market and a community space.

On a writ petition, the High Court on May 18, 2008 ruled that about 3 lakh Biharis living in different parts of the country are citizens of Bangladesh. The court also directed the Election Commission to include the petitioners' names in the voter list.

According to unofficial counts there are around 250,000 to 300,000 of the stateless Biharis in Bangladesh. Of them, around 160,000 are languishing in different camps.

# US FOOD SECURITY FUND Bangladesh to get major share: Moriarty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will get a major share of the US Food Security Fund in the coming years, US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty said yesterday.

Special focus will be given on the issues relating to Bangladesh in the G-8 summit in July, Moriarty told Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury at a meeting at the latter's office in the ministry.

The US was ready to mobilize \$3 to 4 billion for the fund while the G-8 countries pledged a fund of \$20 billion in next three years for agri-

cultural development in the developing countries, said a Reuters report ahead of the G-8 summit in July last year.

The US president will prioritize Bangladesh in his speech in the next G-8 summit, said a press release of the agriculture ministry.

The US diplomat proposed that Bangladesh convene a forum on food security involving the US and other development partners in May to prepare a national position paper on the issue.

Matia thanked Moriarty for putting emphasis on issues relating to Bangladesh.

# 7 Shibir men held, granted bail

DU CORRESPONDENT

The police arrested seven activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir from two dormitories at Dhaka University in the early hours of yesterday for suspicious activities.

However, they were granted bail by a Dhaka court in the afternoon. The court also rejected an appeal of the police for a five-day remand.

Six of them were picked up from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall and the other from Ziaur Rahman Hall at around 4:30am.

Students of the halls handed over the Shibir activists to the police when they went to the hall following information from the hall authorities, Officer-in-charge of Shabbagh Police Station Rezaul Karim said.

The police first took them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and they were given first aid as they had marks of injuries in their bodies, he said. Later, they were taken to Shabbagh Police station.

The arrestees are Md Abdullah, Abdul Wahab Reza and Shah Alam of political science, Nasir Uddin of sociology, Masudur Rahman Nobik of international business, Mustak Ahmed of world religion, Munir Uddin Saiful of Arabic department.

# Legal notice on govt for pure drinking water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A human rights and environmentalist organisation yesterday served a legal notice on the government to inform it within 72 hours on what measures have been taken to supply pure drinking water to the people in the city.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) sent the notice to the secretary to the LGRD and cooperatives ministry and the chairmen of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI) following a newspaper report claiming that the Dhaka Wasa has been supplying stinky water to the city dwellers.

HRPB president Manzill Murshid sent the notice on behalf of the organisation.

# First IT resource centre at union level launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first IT resource centre at the union level was launched at Kaultia Union Parishad Complex in Gazipur yesterday.

Bangabandhu Agriculture University Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Mannan Akand formally inaugurated the centre, said a press release.

The people of that region will get internet and other computer related services through the centre.

Local industrialists, Kaultia Union Parishad and local administration jointly financed the centre.

The MATT-2 team members, comprising six deputy secretaries, worked for establishing the centre.

They are Abdul Hannan, Ajit Kumar Paul, Dr Atiqur Rahman, Harun-uz-Zaman Bhuiyan, Abul Mansur Mohammad Sharif Uddin and ABM Fazlur Rahman.

## WEATHER

### Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Slight fall in day temperature is expected over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:03pm today and rises at 6:17am tomorrow.**

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 16.0 degrees at Rajshahi.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.3	22.4	74	42
Chittagong	28.5	21.8	85	82
Rajshahi	35.2	16.0	44	29
Khulna	35.2	22.8	91	44
Barisal	34.2	22.6	82	70
Sylhet	34.7	22.0	74	45
Cox's Bazar	30.8	21.5	81	79

# BHOLA-3 BY-ELECTION BNP men blamed for creating law and order situation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former ruling party lawmaker Maj (ret'd) Jasim Uddin of Bhola-3 yesterday alleged that BNP men belonging to Maj (ret'd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed is damaging the law and order situation by showing arms ahead of the by-election in the constituency.

Jasim, whose MP status was scrapped by the Supreme Court, at a press conference at the MP hostel at Tejgaon in the city also alleged that some policemen were helping the BNP cadres.

The former lawmaker said he had sent a letter to the home minister to take action against those who were involved in deteriorating the law and order in the region by possessing and brandishing arms.

"The cadres of Hafiz started

creating havoc in the Lalmohon upazila of Bhola just after the Bhola-3 constituency was declared vacant. On February 23, they attacked an Awami League leader at the Lalmohon bazaar with fire-arms and sharp weapons in front of police who did not take any action."

He said Lalmohon Municipality Mayor Kabir Patwari, cousin of Maj Hafiz Marshal Himu, union parishad (UP) chairman of Char Bhuta Titob, Farajganj UP Chairman Selim and others attacked Sukumar.

Jasim claimed that, "Maj Hafiz is doing so in the area as he is sensing a defeat to a younger politician in the upcoming by-election," and said he would fight in the by-election if the party nominates him.

## DHAKA

### T O D A Y

**Workshop**  
Coastal and Wetland Biodiversity Management Project, Department of Environment organises a workshop on 'Blue flag beach certification programme'. Venue: Paribesh Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 9:00am.

**Seminar**  
Local Government Division, Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives in association with USAID will organise a seminar on the impact of food security programmes in Bangladesh. Venue: Radisson Water Garden Hotel. Time: 9:00am.

**Ikebana contest**  
Bangladesh National UNESCO Club Association and Asia Bunka Kaikan Dosokai will jointly organise an Ikebana contest. Venue: BANBEIS Bhaban. Time: 10:30am.

**Certificate giving ceremony**  
Military Institute of Science and

Technology (MIST) will organise the 8th certificate handover ceremony of CE-8, CSE-6, EECE-4 and ME-4 courses. Venue: DSCSC, Mirpur Cantonment. Time: 11:00am.

**Exhibition**  
The inaugural ceremony of Education UK Exhibition 2010 will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 10:30am.

**Dialogue**  
Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organises a dialogue on 'Advancing Bangladesh-India economic cooperation: Modalities and challenges'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 2:45pm.

**Workshop**  
Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organises a workshop on 'The supply chain and prices of Hilsa fish in Bangladesh'. Venue: BIDS conference room. Time: 10:30am.