

CHT ACCORD
2 Japan MPs
arrive with
peace call

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two visiting members of the Japanese parliament met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday and urged her to fully implement the 1997 Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord.

They submitted a petition signed by 35,757 people from 105 countries and 12 autonomous territories. The statement also has peace messages from 2754 people including 1976 Nobel Peace Prize winner Mairead Corrigan-Maguire.

Naoto Sakaguchi and Mieko Tanaka, Democratic Party parliamentary members of Japan who arrived here on March 20, had an hour's talk

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Survey of hills land in limbo

Jana Sanghati wants govt to identify original owners first

PINAKI ROY

The first land survey in three hill districts has become uncertain in the face of opposition from Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), which demands settlement of the land disputes between indigenous people and Bangalee settlers first.

The CHT Land Commission had decided to ask the government to have land survey in Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban done by October 2009. The PCJSS has been opposing the survey as it conflicts with the CHT Peace Accord.

As per the peace accord, the government has to identify the original owners of land in CHT first, CHT Regional Council Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, popularly known as Santu Larma, told The Daily Star in an interview in Rangamati.

Different organisations including the Adivasi Odhakar Andolon, which Santu Larma chairs, have demanded that the government resolve the existing land disputes on the basis of the CHT accord.

Indigenous people have come under attacks of Bangalee settlers 11 times since the accord

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DHAKA-CTG HIGHWAY

Consultancy hitch delays upgrading

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Upgrading of the Dhaka-Chittagong highway to a dual carriageway is likely to be delayed further as the Pakistani consultancy firm at the last moment declined to monitor the project's implementation demanding a fee hike, said communications ministry officials.

National Engineer Service of Pakistan (Nespak) signed a contract with the ministry in 2006 for designing route and monitor the project's implementation.

The firm did its first job but now demands a raise in fee by more than half for the second task despite absence of any provision in the deal

that allows them to make such claim, they said.

"The latest crisis arose at a time when we, after years of dilly-dallying in finalising the project, were about to start construction work of the highway in full swing in January this year. But it will be delayed by a couple of months due to absence of any representative from the Pakistani firm," said a senior official of the ministry.

He said groundwork like installation of project offices, arrangement for workers' accommodation and land-filling was to be completed in a month after signing of a contract with three construction firms on January 17 for the Tk 1,655 crore project.

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DIST PORTALS HACKING
'Indian' IP address detected

More probe needed to find real location

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Prime Minister's Office says it has traced an Indian IP (Internet protocol) address used for hacking 20 district portals of Bangladesh on Saturday.

"We have initially detected

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Delwar meets Khaleda after long gap

BNP picks Hafiz for Bhola-3 by-poll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain last night met Chairperson Khaleda Zia for the first time since his return on March 9 from Singapore after treatment.

Delwar went to Khaleda's

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Jamaat blames media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami leaders yesterday blasted a section of the media for whipping up propaganda and conspiring against the party.

Some newspapers distorted the remarks made by Jamaat's Dhaka city unit Ameer Rafiqul Islam Khan about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), they said adding that it was ill motivated.

Rafiqul on March 17 at a discussion in the capital said Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami is encountering the same difficulties as was faced

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'HURTING MUSLIM SENTIMENTS'
Nizami, Mojaheed sued, summoned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A criminal case was filed with a Dhaka court yesterday against five Jamaat-e-Islami leaders including its Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami and Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed for hurting religious sentiment of Muslims.

The case stated that Dhaka City Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Rafiqul Islam Khan at a discussion in Dhaka on March 17 compared Nizami to Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), which hurt the Muslims.

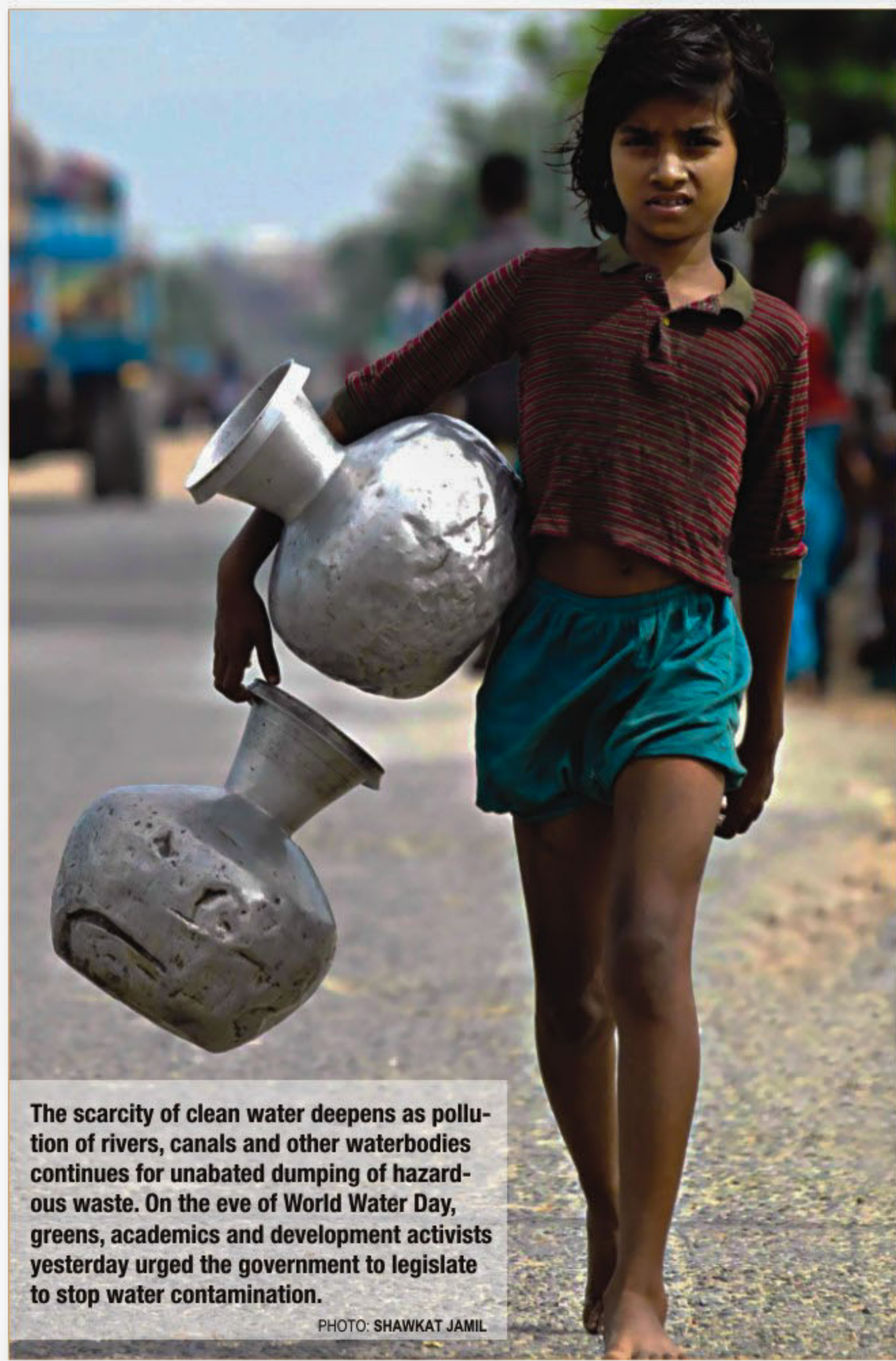
The three other accused are Jamaat-e-Islami Nayebe Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayeede, Rafiqul Islam Khan and city president of Islami Chhatra Shibir ASM Yahia.

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Nizami

Mojaheed



The scarcity of clean water deepens as pollution of rivers, canals and other waterbodies continues for unabated dumping of hazardous waste. On the eve of World Water Day, greens, academics and development activists yesterday urged the government to legislate to stop water contamination.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Wasa gets JS body flak for stinky water

RASHIDUL HASAN

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) yesterday got a lot of flak from a parliamentary body for supplying filthy and stinky water in some parts of the capital.

The parliamentary standing committee on local government and rural development ministry asked Wasa officials to take effective steps to resolve the problems immediately.

"The committee members including its chairman Rahmat Ali asked the Wasa officials to stop all rhetoric and take noticeable steps so that city dwellers can see the results immediately," a source told The Daily Star after a meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The committee chairman interrupted Wasa officials when they were about to explain steps to remove the sorry state of water supply in some areas in the capital.

"Stop using rhetoric; we want to see results," the source quoted Rahmat Ali, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker, as saying in the meeting.

The committee also rebuked Wasa, Dhaka City Corporation and Rajuk for not working in a coordinated way.

Several committee members also blasted Wasa, DCC

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Bangladeshi worker freed from captivity in Pakistan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi expatriate Aminul Islam, who was held hostage in Pakistan by a transnational gang for ransom, returned home on Saturday after the abductors released him following the arrests of their seven associates and relatives in Bangladesh.

The gang took Aminul to Pakistan from his workplace in Dubai on October 19, last year and held him hostage there. They took a ransom of Tk 3.79 lakh in phases from the victim's family in Rajshahi.

Aminul said the abductors freed him and put him on a Dhaka-bound flight of Pakistan International Airlines after police arrested the abductors' relatives and associates.

He also gave the names of four gang members -- Mohammad Abdur Rob, Babul and Sabuj in Italy, and Kabir in Pakistan.

Babul over the phone from Italy offered him a lucrative job there in exchange for Tk 3.5 lakh. Four other Bangladeshis were also given such offers, he said.

A Dubai national came to his workplace by a

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'ILLEGAL' VOIP BTRC shuts down operations of People'sTel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission last night shut down all operations of private landline operator People'sTel for its alleged involvement in illegal VOIP (voice over internet protocol) business.

The BTRC raided the People'sTel office at Banani

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আমরা শোকাহত
রাজ ওভারসীজ লিমিটেড এর ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব খন্দকার সামছুল আলম (পোখরাজ) এর সহধর্মীনি মিসেস হাসিবা বেগম গত মঙ্গলবার ১৬/০৩/২০১০ তারিখে এক মর্মান্তিক সড়ক দুর্ঘটনায় ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)। মৃত্যুকালে তাঁর বয়স হয়েছিল ৪৮ বছর। তিনি স্বামী, একমাত্র পুত্র, পুত্রবধু এবং অসংখ্য আত্মীয়-স্বজন ও গুণগ্রাহী রেখে গেছেন। মরহুমা হাসিবা বেগম এর অকাল মৃত্যুতে আমরা রাজ ওভারসীজ লিমিটেড এর সকল সদস্য শোকাহত। পরম করুণাময় আল্লাহ তায়ালার কাছে আমরা মরহুমার বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং শোক-সন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি।
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