



Guests hold copies of a book titled 'Local Government and Political Reforms: Keys to Poverty Reduction' by Dr Badiul Alam Majumder at a launching ceremony at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. From left are Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui and the author. (Story on Page 2)

# Bangladesh a model country

Says US Ambassador Verveer

UNB, Dhaka

US Ambassador-at-large for Global Women's issues Melanne Verveer said Bangladesh, in so many ways, represents to the rest of the world as a model.

Verveer said this when she received Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA and State Minister Akramul Qader at her office in the department of State on Wednesday.

Termining her visit to Bangladesh in November 2009 a very successful one, Ambassador Verveer stated that she was amazed to see the innovativeness and resilience of the people of Bangladesh, said a press release of the US embassy in Washington.

She referred to Bangladesh as a model country on host of issues ranging from Bangladesh's success in micro finance to facing challenges of climate change and other national calamities to spectacular achievements in terms of women's empowerment.

She added that she refers to

Bangladesh as a role model in almost all her formal talks on issues related to global women affairs and their contribution towards democracy and development.

Ambassador Qader shared with Ambassador Verveer the government's policies and development initiatives and hoped that US would continue to support Bangladesh in the days to come.

He particularly highlighted the emerging resource gap because of lack of resource mobilisation for climatically vulnerable countries like Bangladesh from developed countries.

Alerting about the onset of monsoon in Bangladesh, Qader explained how support in this regard would eventually contribute towards empowering the rural women.

In response, Ambassador Verveer assured Qader of taking this issue with their relevant authorities in the USA and expressed her total agreement of necessary support in this regard.

# Road accidents kill 8

METRO DESK

Eight people were killed in separate road accidents in Bogra, Rajshahi and Brahmanbaria yesterday.

Staff correspondent from Bogra reports: Five persons, including an army man, were killed and another seriously injured in two separate road accidents in Bogra yesterday.

The dead were identified as army man Lance Corporal Nazrul Islam, 32, Sherpur Dairy Firm Veterinary Assistant Asaduzzaman Jewel, 34, an unidentified man aged about 40, rickshaw driver Sadek Ali Harun, 52 and pedestrian Bulu Miah, 52.

Police said three people, including the army man, died on the spot when a Rangpur-bound coach hit a CNG-run autorickshaw at Hajipara under Sherpur upazila around 12:00 noon.

Police said a goods-laden truck ran over rickshaw driver Sadek and pedestrian Bulu on Dhaka-Bogra highway in Shalukhari area in the morning as its driver lost his control over the steering, leaving them dead on the spot.

Autorickshaw driver Ayub Ali was rushed to Bogra Shaheed Zia Medical College Hospital with severe injuries.

Staff correspondent from Rajshahi adds: Two people, including a bus workers' union leader, were killed in separate road accidents in Rajshahi city yesterday.

Sirajul Islam, 47, general secretary of Rajshahi Bus Labourers' union, was injured around 10:00am as he fell with his motorcycle while he was trying to save a pedestrian who was crossing a road at Bhadra.

He was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

In another accident, Abu Jafar, 37, of Meherchandi, was sandwiched between two buses while crossing a road near Rajshahi Bus terminal round 3:00pm, leaving him dead on the spot.

Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria says: One passerby was killed as a tempo knocked him down on Sarail-Nasirnagar Road at Burishyar village under Nasirnagar upazila yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Md Tauhid Mia, 26, a poultry trader of Burishyar village. According to witness and police, a speeding tempo knocked Tauhid down from behind when he was crossing the road, leaving him injured seriously.

Tauhid succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital.

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Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for further information.

# 'Resolve power, water crises'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties yesterday staged demonstrations in the city demanding immediate steps to resolve power, water and gas crises.

Communist Party of Bangladesh, Mirpur thana unit, took out a procession from Senpara to Amtala Bazar and held a protest rally.

In its election pledges, the government had promised to resolve power and water crises, but the crises have now intensified instead, the CPB leaders said.

They also demanded steps to repair the roads in Senpara Paraba area.

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Dhaka city unit, held a rally at Muktangan and took out a procession to protest the ongoing power, water and gas crisis.

BSD leader Bazur Rashid

Firoz, who presided over the rally, said the government has failed to meet even half the demand for electricity in the city.

Frequent power outages have been causing huge suffering to the people and also hampering activities in office, factories and industries to a great extent, he said.

The crisis of pure drinking water has also resulted from long-standing negligence on the part of the government, he added.

At a press conference yesterday, Gonotantrik Bam Morcha said the present government and previous ruling alliance have been playing blame game over power crisis, but no initiative has been taken to resolve the problem.

The party also announced that it will hold a rally on April 18 at Muktangan to protest the ongoing power, water and gas crisis and price spiral of essential commodities.

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## Know Bangladesh Better

Read Star Insight, a fortnightly publication of The Daily Star. It's coming out twice a month every alternate Saturday along with our regular Issue. The current issue (April 10, 2010) covers stories from Manikganj, Sylhet, Bogra & Jhenidah. Coming out Tomorrow. Ask your hawker for your copy.

Send your comments & contribution to

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