

## Rainwater to recharge underground reservoirs

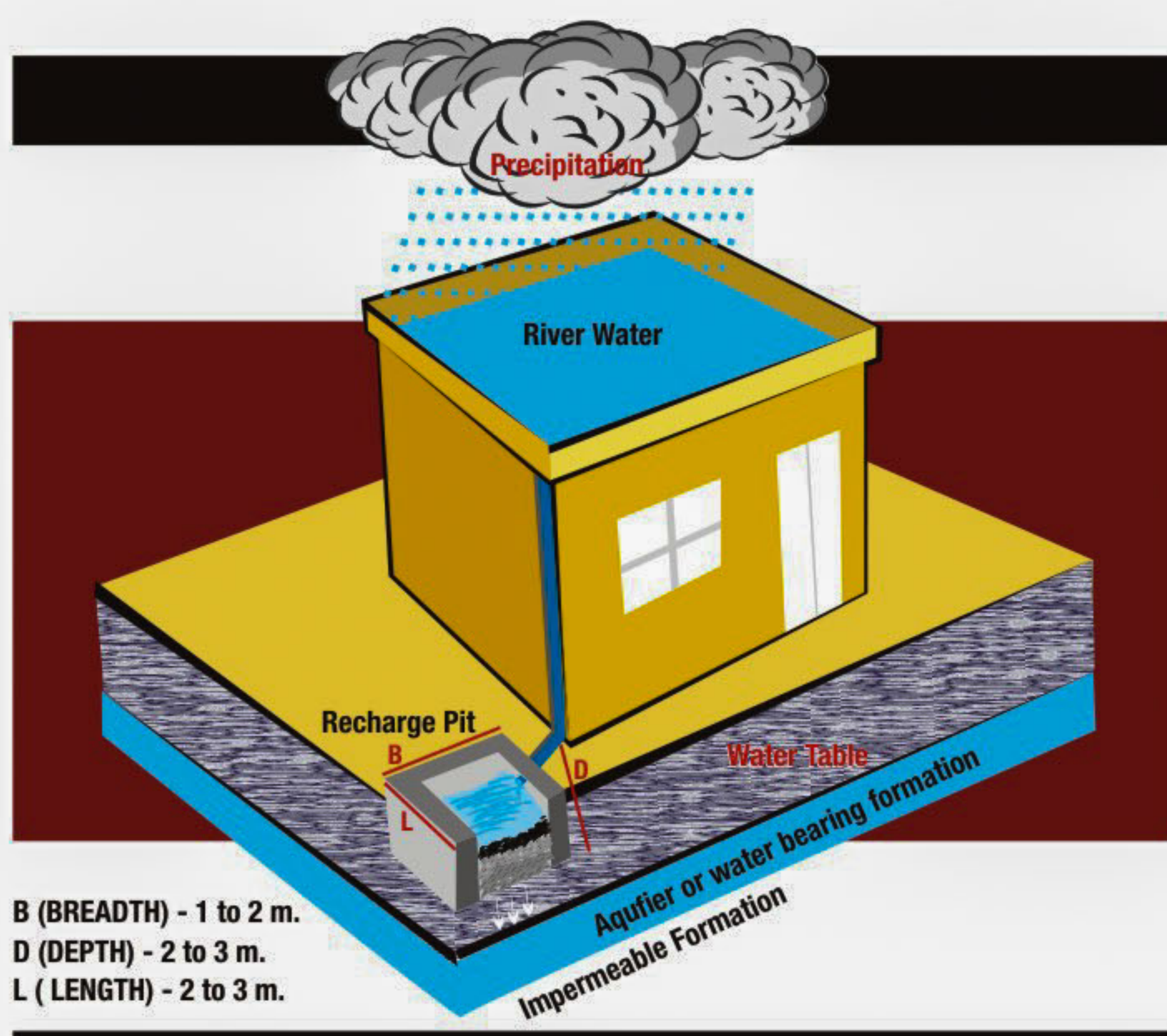
### Wasa finally initiates pilot project to up falling water level in Dhaka

**HELEMUL ALAM**  
After over two decades of groundwater level decline, Dhaka Wasa will at last start recharging the aquifers of the capital this monsoon, to save the city from a looming scarcity of supply water, and subsidence of the ground surface. Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) started a pilot project titled "Artificial Recharge from Rainwater" around five months back at two places of the city, said a high official of the government agency. "Under the taka one crore pilot project, rainwater will be harvested at Wasa office compounds in Lalmatia and

Segunbagicha, then the water will be filtered and sent to aquifers through two wells," said Wasa Deputy Managing Director (Operation and Maintenance) Liakat Ali. The infrastructural work including construction of the wells, and rainwater harvesting reservoirs is expected to be completed next month, said the other official. According to a 2006 assessment study by the Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), commissioned by Wasa, the groundwater level at different parts of the capital has been dropping by two to three metres a year, Liakat

said. The reason for the decline is excessive use of the groundwater through deep tube wells; and filling up of low lands, canals, and other water bodies, said experts. Unplanned dumping of sewage, and household and industrial wastes, in the city rivers and other water bodies, makes it difficult for Wasa to use surface water, resulting in its dependency on groundwater, said Selim Bhuiyan, a Bangladesh Water Development Board engineer. Prof Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh University of Engineering and

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## Khaleda's petition sent to another HC bench

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim yesterday sent BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's writ petition regarding her Dhaka Cantonment house to another High Court bench. The petition has been shifted to the bench of justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and justice Sheikh Hasan Arif for hearing. Earlier, the petition was pending with the bench of justice Md Imman Ali and justice Obaidul Hasan, which earlier adjourned the hearing of the petition for four times. Khaleda recently expressed no-confidence in this bench saying "she might not get justice from this bench." She submitted an application to the chief justice to transfer the writ petition to another bench.

## Musa conquers Everest

### Anxious wait for official confirmation on first-ever feat of a Bangladeshi

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Musa Ibrahim has scaled Mount Everest as the first Bangladeshi, said friends and family of the mountaineer.

He reached the summit at 6:00am Bangladesh time yesterday, Musa's wife Sorabon Tahura Rimi told The Daily Star.

She was citing an e-mail sent by the manager of Himalayan Guide, the firm that arranged the expedition.

The news came at around noon in Dhaka. Soon, greetings began pouring in on different blogs and social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.

Musa, a sub-editor at The Daily Star, used the North Alpine route on the Tibetan side to conquer the top of the world, Anik



**Musa Ibrahim**

Khan, a friend of the climber, told The Daily Star from Kathmandu in the evening.

Iswari Paudel, managing director of Himalayan Guide, has confirmed the news, he added.

"Iswari learned about Musa's feat when her brother Bhola Paudel, manager of the advanced base camp, called via satellite phone."

All 26 members of the expedition including 14 Sherpas got to the summit (8,848 metres), Anik said quoting Iswari.

Besides Musa, three Montenegrins, six Britons, one American and a Serb are in the team.

The arranger of the tour told Deutsche Welle Bangla Service that they had the news from their Tibet base camp yesterday morning.

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## 8 cops injured in 'militant' attack

### One held after gunfight with police; handmade grenades hurled at cops during raid

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

At least eight policemen were injured in an attack by unidentified 'militants' during a raid on in the capital's South Dania last night.

The criminals fired bullets and hurled hand-made grenades at the law-enforcers triggering an exchange of fire. One of the attackers was injured in the clash.

A 21-member team from the police headquarters launched the operation with the help Special Branch and local police.

No officials, except for injured team leader Additional SP

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## Make income tax return must for MPs, mayors

### Suggests JS body

**RASHIDUL HASAN**

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the government to make it mandatory for lawmakers, mayors and councillors of city corporations and municipalities, and chairmen, vice chairmen of upazila parishads to submit income tax returns from the next fiscal year to expand the tax net.

The parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry also asked for setting up an 'enforcement wing' at the National Board of Revenue (NBR) empowering it to confiscate wealth if the wing finds anomalies in tax returns of any persons.

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Waterlogged Gabtali cattle market in the capital yesterday. The market lacks a proper drainage system, resulting in recurrence of the scene whenever it rains. PHOTO: STAR

## ARREST OF GOUTAM KILLERS Rab, police at loggerheads

### Senior officials of both blamed for tarnishing image of law-enforcers

**KAILASH SARKAR**

The police high-ups yesterday scolded senior officials from both police and Rapid Action Battalion for lack of coordination that caused confusion, misunderstanding and image crisis in the law-enforcement agencies.

At a meeting held yesterday at the Police Headquarters, the high-ups also held responsible an unhealthy competition between police and Rab and their ego problems for the lack of coordination, sources say.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad called the meeting following confusion over arrest of some suspects in connection with the killing of Sub-inspector Goutam Roy. Additional IGP (Admin) NBK Tripura, Additional IGP Naim Ahmed, Rab Director General Hassan Mahmood Khandker and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque, among others, took part in the two-hour-long meeting started around 11:00am.

The sources say the meeting directed both the units not to speak to the media on any issues which are under investigation. The sources add the top ranked officials believe both the units have ego problems and they remain busy with unhealthy

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## VEHICLE REQUISITION BY COPS Stop harassment of owners, drivers

### HC asks govt to explain why 1976 ordinance not illegal

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The High Court yesterday directed the government to stop harassment of owners and drivers during requisition of vehicles in the capital.

The bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Md Delwar Hossain came up with the order in response to a writ petition.

It also issued a rule upon the government to explain within two weeks why section 103(Ka) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Ordinance-1976 should not be declared illegal.

Under the section, the police requisition vehicles in the capital.

Earlier in the day, Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), a rights organisation, filed the petition challenging legality of the section.

The HC directed the authorities concerned not to requisition vehicles unless it is necessary in public interest. It also ordered them not to allow personal use of the requisitioned vehicles.

The court asked the police to pay the owners and drivers of the requisitioned vehicles as per market rate. In case of any damage to the cars, the authorities must pay compensation within seven days.

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