

Let's Build A Beautiful Tomorrow



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holds talks with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari at The Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi yesterday. (Story on Page 1) PHOTO: PID

## Collegiate School pioneer: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday said Dhaka Collegiate School had pioneered education of the people of this region, particularly the Muslims who lagged behind during the British rule.

"Merely not in the history of Dhaka, the contribution of this educational institution was also recognised by all in the history of the whole subcontinent," he told a reunion function marking the 175th founding anniversary of Dhaka Collegiate School.

The Dhaka Collegiate School Alumni Association (DCSAA) organised the function at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

Chaired by Alumni Association President and Adviser to the Prime Minister HT Imam, the function was also addressed by National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Alumni Association General Secretary Harun-or-Rashid, and former secretary and chairman of the reunion organising committee Badiur Rahman.

Zillur said the development and progress of western education took place in the country following the path showed by Dhaka Collegiate School.

"The institution made special contribution as a bridge between eastern and western education."

He mentioned that Ratnamoni Gupta was a noted former headmaster of the school from 1888-1896 and during his tenure students from this school stood first in the intermediate examination consecutively for eight years under the Calcutta University.

HT Imam expressed dissatisfaction over the present result of the students from this school.

## GRAFT CHARGES AGAINST FIRE SERVICE DG HC asks home secy to explain

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a twin-rule asking the home secretary to explain why a directive should not be given for legal steps against Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence Director General Brig Gen ANM Shahidullah.

Steps include investigation into alleged corruption in procurement of various modern equipment for the directorate.

The HC also asked the establishment secretary to explain why direction should not be given to rescind its order reappoint-

ing Shahidullah for another two years on contract basis.

The rules were made returnable in three weeks, said the court order.

The HC orders came following a Public Interest Litigation Writ (PIL) petition filed by a lawyer.

In the petition, Barrister Khurshid Alam Sarker, the counsel for the petitioner, said Shahidullah allowed some local agents of foreign companies to do business with the directorate without Bangladesh Bank's approval.

## Bangladesh not high risk from militancy Says British envoy

BSS, Dhaka

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Stephen Evans has said his country does not see Bangladesh at high risk from militancy due to its social fabrics, despite threats by individuals or groups having terror links.

"It is very fortunate that the social and cultural background of Bangladesh is not like other troubled countries in the region," Evans told the agency in an interview.

He described Bangladeshi society as "broadly tolerant, respectful to other faiths" and where the large majority "is not attracted to extremist interpretation of Islam", a feature that worked as a "basic resistance" against terrorist ideals.

His comments came as US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina two days ago and expressed Washington's willingness to work with Bangladesh in more areas against militancy.

The British diplomat said "the only way to effectively combat terrorism" is cooperation between countries, and London cooperated with a wide range of international partners including Bangladesh.

Evans said "information sharing" is the "core area" of mutual assistance in handling militancy while sharing best practices and "actual law enforcement are two other fields where concerned Bangladeshi and British authorities could work together to address "specific cases".

Describing legal and illegal movement of militant funds as "lifeblood" of terrorism, Evans said London will continue cooperation also in "tracking and taking appropriate actions" against terror financing.

Asked for the British view of the initiative for trial Bangla-speaking war crime suspects, he said it was "absolutely" a right thing to expose them to trial if there were evidences.

"We appreciate the initiative but expect the international standard maintained in the process and the right to defence of the accused ensured."

He also said Bangladesh could share his country's legal and technical assistance beyond government levels to ensure a fair trial, as Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said investigators are already gathering war crimes evidence from British archives to frame charges against the suspects.

## JAMUNA EROSION MITIGATION PROJECT Similar steps on all riverbanks planned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following the success of Jamuna Meghna River Erosion Mitigation Project (JMREMP), Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) decided to implement similar projects on all riverbanks in the country to tackle river erosion.

As the project taken in 2003 also proved to be cost effective, BWDB Additional Director General Makbul Hossain said, "From now we will use its methodology to stop river erosion."

BWDB organised a seminar on 'Dissemination of JMREMP River Bank Protection Methodology' at a hotel in the city yesterday with Makbul giving a presentation.

He said the project's cost is half that of conventional methods used against river erosion. "Every kilometre by conventional method costs Tk 30 crore against Tk 15 crore of the project's."

In the project, polypropylene bags filled with sand are dumped in a regular manner, one metre from the natural slopes of the riverbank towards the river.

Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, State Minister Mahubur Rahman, Secretary Shaikh Wahid-uz-Zaman, and Asian Development Bank Unit Head of Portfolio Management Unit Stefan Ekelund also addressed the seminar.

BWDB Director General Habibur Rahman presided over the programme.

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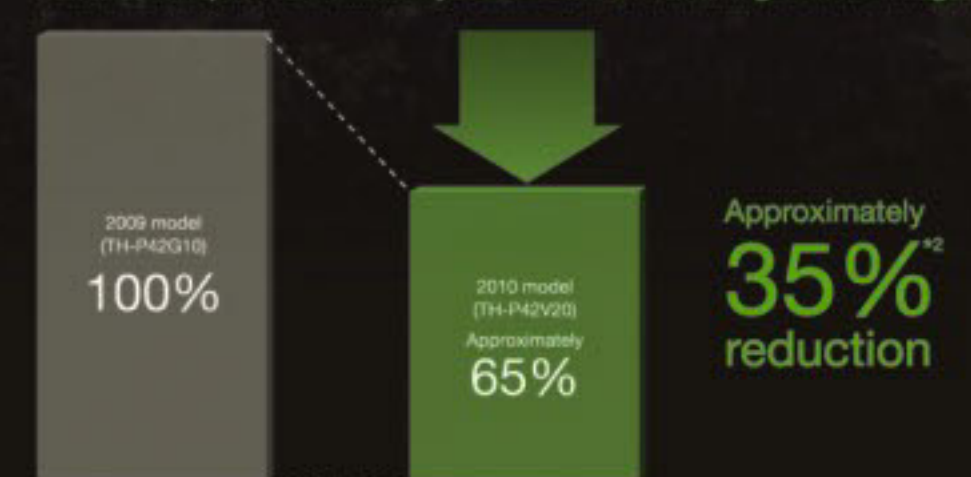
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