

NEWS IN *brief*

**Tripura governor calls on PM**

UNB, Dhaka

Governor of Indian State of Tripura Dr DY Patil yesterday paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gonobhaban. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral issues, including trade between the two neighboring countries especially with Tripura.

**Shah Alam appeals against conviction**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam yesterday filed an appeal with the High Court (HC) against the trial court judgment that sentenced him to eight years' imprisonment in a tax evasion case. Shah Alam in the appeal also sought bail from the HC in the case in which he was sent to jail Sunday. The HC bench of Justice Md Shamsul Huda and Justice Abu Bakar Siddiquee is likely to hear the appeal today.

Earlier on Sunday, the Special Judge Court-3 led by Judge (in-charge) Kader Newaz ordered to send Shah Alam to jail upon his surrender. An anti-graft tribunal on September 30, 2007, handed down eight-year imprisonment to Shah Alam in the case filed by NBR.

**Movement big challenge for BNP: Fakhru**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said it would be a great challenge for BNP to achieve the highest feat in the anti government movement by organising people and making the party stronger. "Forging a well organised movement to resist the fascist activities of the ruling government will be a big challenge for us," he said while talking to reporters at his Uttara residence in the city. Alamgir was authorised by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to carry out organisational activities of the secretary general following the death of Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

**BNP man killed in bomb attack**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Unidentified criminals killed a BNP activist and injured two others in a bomb attack in Mujibnagar upazila of Meherpur yesterday. The deceased Bina Khan, 35, is son of Mujibnagar unit BNP President Ibrahim Hossain. The injured are Semil Uddin, 23 and Ahsan, 33, sons of Azizul Islam of the area. Police said four men hurled four bombs at Bina who was sitting in a pharmacy, around 100 yards from Mujibnagar Police Station, killing him on the spot.

**Japan grant for fishery dev**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A US \$ 97,122 grant contract for a development project for fishery in rural Bangladesh through Grant Assistance for Grass Roots Human Security Projects (GGHSP) was signed at Japan embassy in the city yesterday. Tamotsu Shinotsuka, ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, and a representative of OISCA-IDB (JAPAN) signed the grant. The organisation will excavate ponds and construct fish hatchery.

**Faridpur dist committee formed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Faridpur district unit committee of Bangladesh Shiksha Protisthan Karmachari Federation was formed on March 19 with Mohammad Lokman Hossain as president and Mohammad Ali as secretary general. Mohammad Arif Hossain was selected as organising secretary in the 31-member committee, says a press release.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presiding over the weekly cabinet meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat in the city yesterday.

**JAMAL MURDER  
Four to die**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced four people to death and two others to life term imprisonment for killing Jubo League leader Jamal in 2009. The condemned convicts are Pallab Bepari, Ameer Hossain, Shiplu and Ariful Hasan while the lifers are Kamal Hossain and Anwar. Judge Mohammad Rezaul Islam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 also acquitted four others as the charges brought against them were not proved. Of them, Ariful Hasan and Shiplu remained absconding. Jamal was killed at Kacharighat Bazar in Dohar upazila of Dhaka on July 17, 2009.

**Dhaka for restraint in action on Libya**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has urged restraint in the implementation of the UN Security Council Action on Libya "so that military action is resorted to only when absolutely essential and solely for neutralising military targets." In a press statement yesterday, the Foreign Ministry said for Bangladesh, the concern continues to be with regard to the safety of civilians, particularly of Bangladesh nationality, located in various parts of Libya. The statement says, "Bangladesh is closely following the evolving situation in Libya. We have taken note of the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1973 (2011), which calls for immediate ceasefire inside Libya and a complete end to violence. "We welcome the fact that the resolution aims at protecting civilians and civilian populated areas under threat and excludes categorically an occupation force." Bangladesh also called for a dialogue within Libya to find a peaceful solution to the current crisis in line with the aspirations of the Libyan people.



Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique speaks at a workshop titled "Security and women: Experiences of 40 years from grassroots level" at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of the university.

**DRAGGING ELDERLY MAN  
Three cops suspended**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Three Nilphamari police constables were suspended yesterday, a day after they dragged an elderly man, punished for contempt of court order, out of a courtroom in the district. The suspended constables are Anwar Hossain, Nazrul Islam and Khairul Islam, confirmed Nilphamari Assistant Superintendent of Police Shahabuddin Ahmed last night. The suspension orders came following a report of Prothom Alo that said policemen literally dragged sexagenarian Akbar Ali, plaintiff of a case, out of the courtroom though he already fainted. The incident happened following a court order to keep Ali confined to five hours in court prison on charge of contempt of court.

**Obituary**

METRO DESK

Giasuddin Mohammad Rizwan Riaz, son of AFM Abdur Ragib and Razia Begum, passed away on Sunday at the age of 50. Rizwan's kulkhwani will be held at his Baridhara residence on March 25.

**BDR CARNAGE CASE  
26 BGB men indicted**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday indicted 26 more members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) for the 2009 carnage at their Pilkhana headquarters, raising the total number of accused to 850. Special Superintendent of the CID Abdul Kahar Akand submitted two supplementary charge sheets in two cases against the 26, including a deputy assistant director, to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, showing 58 other people as prosecution witnesses. The court fixed March 28 for hearing on charge framing against the previous accused in the cases and also ordered the prosecution to submit the investigation report before it by tomorrow. The charges brought against the defendants include using and possessing explosives. They are: Deputy Assistant Director Nurul Huda, Havildar Daud Ali, Lance Nayek Rezaul Karim, Jasim Uddin, Mozammel Haque, Mojibur Rahman, Mahtab Uddin, Anwar Hossain, Hasmat Zaman, Emdadul Haque, Selim Miah, Nazrul Islam, and Belayet Hossain, Nayek Subedars Talukder Kaiser Ali, Islam Uddin, Yusuf Ali, and Rafiqul Islam, Nayek Shah Akhter, Sepoys Mohammad Salauddin, Mamun Miah, Khalilur Rahman, Jasim Uddin, Abul Kalam Azad, the cooks Rafiqul Islam and Mojibur Rahman and a sweeper Mazed Sardar. The charge sheets will be placed before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, today. Earlier on January 5, the trial court took into cognisance the charges against 801 BGB personnel, previously BDR. On February 3, the court ordered further investigation into the carnage as more names surfaced alongside the 824 accused. The court initially gave one month to complete the re-investigation, but the CID sought more time prompting the court to reprimand the investigator and the prosecution. Last year, in July the CID pressed charges against 824 people and 23 civilians on various charges including murder, arson, looting, hiding of bodies and sedition.



National Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman addresses a roundtable organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday.

**Judges need to awaken to end disparity: NHRC chief**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman yesterday said the court compound and judges are in sleep mode and need to wake up to eradicate all kinds of disparity from the country. He said judges need to play a pro-active role in removing discrimination towards marginalised communities. The discussion on "Relevance of a law to eliminate racial discrimination" marking International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation at Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Stating that the state has become friendly towards the rich and hostile towards the poor, Dr Mizanur said rule of law must be wholly

established to eliminate discrimination. "Though our prime minister is a poor-friendly person, her surrounding bureaucrats are not letting her take steps in favour of the poor," he said. Dr Mizanur vowed that he and his commission would fight against human rights violations on marginalised people. Bangladesh Law Commission Chairman Shah Alam said the issue of eliminating racial discrimination could be included in the constitution as a parliamentary committee is working on the constitution's amendment. Dhaka University Economics Prof Abul Barkat said vision 2021 cannot be achieved without participation of marginalised people. Representatives from various marginalised communities attended the discussion.

**Jamaat city chief freed on bail**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Dhaka city unit chief Rafiqul Islam Khan was released on bail from Dhaka Central Jail last night after 7 months of detention. Rafiqul was arrested on Aug 25 last year in connection with two cases -- one for the death of a commuter in a pre-hartal violence on June 27 last year and another for instigating clashes at Rajshahi University between party cadres and Awami League activists. Later, he was shown arrested in seven other cases, including one for hurting religious sentiments.

**53 hired land grabbers held**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab in a drive in Gazipur yesterday arrested at least 53 people on allegation of grabbing land, using firearms and other weapons, in exchange for money. They were held from Pubali College Gate in Joydevpur. Rab sources said one pistol with two bullets, five knives, one microbus, two cars and seven motorbikes were also recovered from their possession.

**Water, sanitation by 2015 plan finalised**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

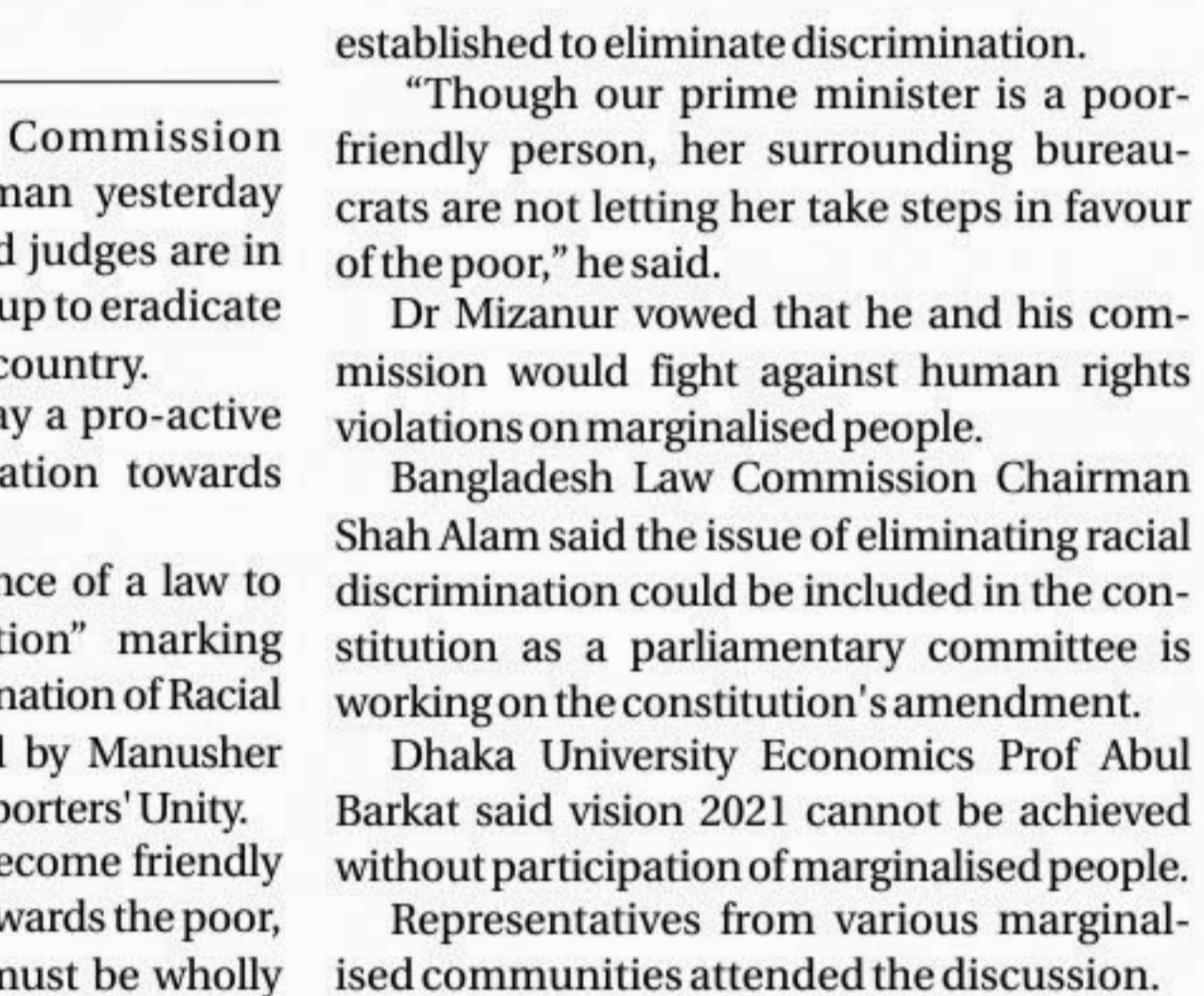
The government has finalised a sector development plan (SDP) to ensure modern drinking water supply system and quality sanitary latrine for all by 2025. The three-phase SDP (2011-2025) on water and sanitation will be implemented at a proposed expense of Tk 1,50,000 crore. Most of the money will come from the government sources and from contribution of the people. Local government division disclosed the plan at a workshop at a city hotel yesterday. An official of LGD, the department that will implement the project, said everybody will be provided water and latrines within the first phase (2011-15). During the second phase (2016-20), drinking water and sanitary latrines will be ensured for all. Modernisation of water supply system and quality latrines like that in the western countries will be done in the third phase (2021-25). According to the SDP, currently 74 percent people are under Bangladesh basic standard water supply coverage and 80.4 percent under sanitation coverage. Advocate Md Rahmat Ali, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on LGRD, was the chief guest.

**Maternal mortality rate reduces by 40pc Says Unicef**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maternal mortality rate in Bangladesh has reduced by 40 percent during the last 10 years for better health service and dissemination of proper information, said a Unicef official. Deputy Representative of Unicef Bangladesh, Michel Saint-Lot, revealed the data at a function, organised by Unicef at Jatiya Press club in the city yesterday. Facts For Life 2010 Bangladesh edition, a publication designed to create awareness about children's safety and well being, was unveiled at the ceremony. Saint-Lot said infant mortality rate has come down by 65 percent and under-five mortality by 60 percent in Bangladesh during the last 20 years. Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad and Unicef Representative Patricia Portela de Souza also spoke at the programme.

**Speakers at a seminar on Accounting and ACCA organised by Association of Chartered Certified Accountants Bangladesh at the auditorium of Business Faculty of Dhaka University recently.**



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**WEATHER TODAY**

**Slight rise in temperature likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Sylhet division in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today. Weather may remain dry elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. Day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:10pm and rises tomorrow at 6:00am.

Country's highest temperature 38.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and Ishwardi and lowest 20.0 degrees at Sayedpur. 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	34.0	24.8	75	65
Chittagong	28.7	21.0	72	78
Rajshahi	38.0	23.5	87	33
Rangpur	34.8	21.7	80	35
Khulna	34.2	24.5	73	69
Barisal	31.8	24.5	77	68
Sylhet	32.8	23.2	71	58