

## 'Manmohan's visit milestone in ties'

BNP happy as agreement on Teesta not signed and AL allies frustrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League views the Indian prime minister's visit a milestone in bilateral relations between the two countries.

The main opposition BNP is also happy as the long-expected Teesta river treaty, what could be a feather in the government's cap, was not signed.

AL's allies, however, expressed frustration over the postponement of a few deals including that on the Teesta water share. The outcome of Manmohan Singh's two-day tour should have been much more.

"The visit will contribute to remove doubt and mistrust and also act as a milestone in improving relationship between two countries," Obaidul Quader, AL presidium member, told The Daily Star.

"It's a win-win situation," he said. As the Teesta agreement was stepped forward from the Indian side, Bangladesh has taken decision against transit, considering public sentiment.

BNP leaders believe the government plunged into an embarrassing situation, as it could not convince Indian government to sign the river treaty, an issue that raised huge public expectation.

They term the Teesta debacle a massive failure of their arch-rival.

At the same time, said the party insiders, BNP high-ups feel relieved as the government finally refrained from signing anything on transit during the visit of Manmohan, who arrived in the city yesterday.

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said they will give formal reaction on the high profile visit today after the meeting between party chairperson Khaleda Zia and Manmohan scheduled at 4:00pm at his hotel suit.

He made this statement last night after a meeting between chairperson and party senior leaders at her Gulshan office on the issues to be discussed during her meeting with Indian premier.

On the other hand, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon and Communist Party General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim expressed discontentment over the postponement of Teesta deal.

"India has failed to respond to the way Bangladesh has been stepped forward to build a strong bilateral relationship with the neighbouring country. People's interest centring Manmohan's visit has not faded as some important deals including Teesta were not signed," said Menon, also a leader of AL-led grand alliance.

CPB leader Selim said "Many things could have been achieved from this visit but both countries have failed to seize the opportunity. Our largest neighbouring country has failed to fulfil Bangladesh's expectation."

President of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Hasanul Haq Inu said the "front door of cooperation" between the countries is yet to be opened as some longstanding issues including deals on the Teesta and other rivers and transit were not resolved.

Jatiya Party Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawlader said, "We had great expectations, especially about resolving the longstanding problems between the two countries from the Indian government but most of them remained unfulfilled."

Jamaat-e-Islami acting Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam said they will give their reaction today.

## Indian CMs assure airing Dhaka channels

BSS, Dhaka

Chief ministers of four Indian states assured Bangladesh of taking steps to enable Bangladesh satellite television channels to telecast their programmes in India.

Currently, the Bangladeshi television channels require permission from authorities to telecast in India.

"I've told them that the programmes aired by our private television channels can easily be down linked in India," said Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad.

"The chief ministers have assured me of taking steps in this regard so that people of their states can see the programmes aired by Bangladeshi television channels," said Abul Kalam after a meeting with some senior cabinet ministers and the four visiting Indian state chief ministers.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith moderated the meeting held in the city's Sonargaon Hotel on the sidelines of the official talks between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Mizoram Chief Minister PU Lalthanhawla, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar, Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul Sangma and Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi attended the meeting.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina having a tête-à-tête with her India counterpart Manmohan Singh at her office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

## 1,000 sacks of fertiliser seized in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police seized 1,080 sacks of fertiliser worth around Tk 5 lakh from Roosevelt Jetty under Khalishpur Police Station in Khulna on Monday.

On information, police seized three truckloads of MOP (Murate of Potash) fertiliser around 10:00pm and took their three drivers into custody for interrogation.

According to the Delivery Order (DO) letters issued by Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) Khulna office, these fertilisers were meant for delivery to stores in Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira.

Instead, these were being taken to Chuadanga and Meherpur districts, said Sub-Inspector (SI) Manash Ranjan Das of

Khalishpur Police Station.

During interrogation, the arrestees told police that their trucks were hired to carry fertilisers to Chuadanga and Meherpur and not for any other place.

When contacted, K M Zahirul Islam, BADC Khulna office assistant store officer, said the fertilisers seized are worth around Tk 5 lakh.

The dealers often cause disturbance during transportation of goods to sell it in the black market, he added.

Md Ali Asgar, BADC joint director (fertiliser), said he would form a committee to probe into the incident. Action would be taken against the dealers found guilty, he said.

The SI filed a general diary in this connection.

## 'Imitate philosophy of Dr Ibrahim'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The philosophy that enabled Prof Dr Muhammad Ibrahim, founder of Birdem Hospital, to treat patients with empathy is worth imitating, speakers said at a memorial meeting yesterday.

On the occasion of National Professor Dr Ibrahim's 22nd death anniversary that Birdem observed as "Service Day", the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh organised the meeting at the conference room of Birdem.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury attended the programme as the chief guest with Prof AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

Shirin Sharmin said, "Dr Muhammad Ibrahim was a far-sighted man and that is why he established Birdem Hospital to treat diabetic patients especially years back".

Recalling the memories with Dr Ibrahim, Brig Gen (retd) MA Malik said, "He was such a doctor who thanked his patients for giving him the opportunity to serve them". Saifuddin Ahmed, Prof MR Khan, and Prof AR Khan also spoke.

## Urdu-speaking people seek Manmohan's support

UNB, Dhaka

Urdu-Speaking People's Youth Rehabilitation Movement (USPYRM) yesterday sought cooperation from the visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for their rehabilitation in Bangladesh.

"Our forefathers migrated here from different states of India leaving behind their property and belongings, but we now live an extreme inhuman life here," said USPYRM General Secretary Shahed Ali Bablu at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city.

USPYRM is a youth-based organisation of Urdu-speaking people, popularly known as Biharis, living in 116 camps across the country. Some 4 lakh people currently live in these camps, said Bablu.

"Since it's not possible for Bangladesh to rehabilitate such a huge number of people permanently, we earnestly request the Indian PM to play a role in this regard," he said.

He also said a section of people own plots on the land where the camps are located in the city's Mirpur-10 and 11 areas. These people evicted at least 90 families from the camps with the help of several realtors violating the High Court orders, he alleged.

He also sought support from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Home Minister Sahara Khatun in this regard.

## Office contact changed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The secretariat office telephone number of Food and Disaster Management (Unicef), includes two physicians -- Dr Pradip Kumar Bardhan and Dr Azharul Islam Khan -- and a nursing officer Momtaz Begum.

Also, the telephone number of his personal secretary has been changed to 9540012.



To mark the 22nd death anniversary of Birdem Hospital founder Dr Mohammad Ibrahim, Diabetic Association of Bangladesh offers free-of-cost blood test service to passers-by to check for diabetes at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## ICDDR,B to help famine-hit Somalians fight cholera

UNB, Dhaka

Aimed at helping the famine-hit people of Somalia fight cholera, a team of experts from International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) reached neighbouring Kenya on September 1.

Initially based in northern Kenya, the team hopes to travel to Mogadishu later this week, said a press release from ICDDR,B, an international health research institution in Dhaka, yesterday.

The team, working with World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), includes two physicians -- Dr Pradip Kumar Bardhan and Dr Azharul Islam Khan -- and a nursing officer Momtaz Begum.

Their goal is to review the existing control and prevention guidelines and

provide training to health personnel and auxiliary staff from about 70 non-government and government organisations.

According to Unicef, almost five million people in famine-stricken southern Somalia are at risk of cholera and acute diarrhoea. The causes are malnutrition, lack of access to clean water, poor sanitation and hygiene, population movements and crowding in displaced sites.

Years of civil war tore Somalia's health infrastructure apart, leading to extremely poor sanitary conditions in which the cholera bacteria can spread.

Team leader Dr Bardhan said their team specialises in the management of cholera outbreaks and epidemiology.

"Our priority is to train local people so that the region's health authorities

are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to manage and curtail any serious cholera outbreak in the region," he said.

Dr Bardhan said they will also provide training on clinical case management and assist in establishing treatment centres in areas that they feel may pose as breeding grounds for cholera.

With growing expertise, ICDDR,B has been extending assistance to help manage cholera outbreaks to other countries.

Since 1994, its teams travelled widely to help fight the disease, from Rwandan refugee camps in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to Pakistan and Zimbabwe.

In November 2010, a team of clinicians, microbiologists, a medical officer and two nursing travelled to Haiti to help manage a cholera epidemic.

## British national arrested for abusing child

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested a British national in Dhopadighirpar area of Sylhet city yesterday on charge of abusing a 15-year-old boy for about a year.

Peter Ellison, 55, was detained from Metro International hotel. Police rescued the victim boy from the same hotel.

Police said Peter fled Dhaka to Sylhet and was staying in a rented room of the hotel since September 3.

Sylhet Metropolitan Police Commissioner AB Barua said they made the arrest following a five-hour raid along with a magistrate and British High Commission officials.

Barua said Peter took the advantage of poverty and allured the boy hailing from Naogaon under Shulla upazila, Sunamganj over a year ago.

He took the boy on short trips to Bandarban, Dhaka, and other districts and to Nepal, the official quoted the boy as saying on instant quizzing.

Barua said it is a case of child abuse, and things would be cleared up further on enquiry.

The boy, who claimed to be a student of class VI in Shulla upazila, admitted the man's foul behaviour, the SMP commissioner said.

Hailing from Bow area of Mile End, London, UK, Peter claimed himself as a documentary filmmaker on children. He declined to say anything further.

Sylhet Kotwali Police Station Sub-inspector Iktiar Uddin filed a case against Peter under "Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Ain". He was sent to jail after being produced before the Senior Judicial Magistrate Shamsuddin Masum's court. The victim boy was taken to safe custody.

Duncan Brown, second secretary, political affairs, British high Commission, Dhaka, who was present during the raid, declined to say anything about the arrest.

## Pro-AL lawyers condemn BNP chief's remark on former CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-Awami League lawyers have strongly protested and condemned the statement of opposition leader Khaleda Zia about former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque.


On August 31, Khaleda Zia said Justice Khairul had "nullified the caretaker government system for money".

Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad (SASP), a forum of pro-AL lawyers, also termed Khaleda's remark indecent and intentional, says a statement.

The judgments and decisions delivered by Justice Khairul Haque were acclaimed at home and abroad, SASP leaders said at a meeting in the city Monday.

The opposition chief's statement not only plays down Justice Khairul Haque, but aims to obstruct the cases regarding war crimes, August 21 grenade attack, 10-truck arms haul, and misappropriation of state money by Zia Orphanage Trust, she said.

The meeting was held at the residence of SASP Convener Barrister M Amirul-Islam in the city's Concord Tower where Law Minister Shafique Ahmed, Home Minister Sahara Khatun, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, AL leader Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun, State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam, SASP Member Secretary Subrata Chowdhury, former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru, and Deputy Attorney General Motahar Hossain Saju, among others, were present.



### WEATHER TODAY

**Thundershowers likely**

**UNB, Dhaka**

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at 5:42am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Bogra and lowest 24.8 degrees Celsius at Comilla.

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	32.6	26.2	73	73
Chittagong	31.6	25.5	76	87
Rajshahi	33.5	26.2	86	76
Rangpur	33.3	27.0	76	70
Khulna	33.5	25.6	79	89
Barisal	32.6	26.7	76	92
Sylhet	31.0	25.7	93	77
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.5	80	92