

Manmohan terms it 'a sentimental journey'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has termed his just-concluded visit to Bangladesh "a sentimental journey".

"For me, a visit to Bangladesh has always been a sentimental journey. Just after the liberation of Bangladesh [in 1971], I was sent by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi to work out an economic programme in the changed political context," he told Indian newsmen Wednesday night after his return from Dhaka.

Manmohan, who was economic adviser of India's Ministry of Foreign Trade in 1971, said he had worked with Nurul Islam, the then chairman of Bangladesh's Planning Commission, to finalise the economic programme.

Reminiscing about those days, the Indian prime minister said he along with Nurul went to the house of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi in the capital and submitted their sketched-out economic programme of a newly-independent country.

It was a "very touching affair," he added. He on Wednesday visited the same house, now converted into a museum for Bangabandhu.

India cannot realise its full potential unless it strengthens its relations with neighbours, particularly Bangladesh.

Asked about illegal migration from Bangladesh, Manmohan said the two countries have signed a land boundary agreement to clearly demarcate the frontier, which can help check "illegal movement of people and goods across the border".



Everyday tonnes of toxic waste materials including polythene bags from all over the city are dumped at Kona Para at Demra in the city, causing harm to the natural surroundings. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

**ROAD ACCIDENT
Manikganj OC succumbs to injuries**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Manikganj Sadar Police Station died at Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday, nine days after he was injured in a road accident in Manikganj.

Abu Taher, 48, from Sakhipur of Tangail, was seriously injured after an auto-rickshaw hit him at Khalpar in Manikganj town on August 30 when he was going to perform duty after Sehri.

He was first taken to Manikganj Sadar Hospital and then referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Later, he was shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Apollo Hospitals for better treatment.

According to doctors, Abu Taher suffered serious head injuries in the accident.

Police seized the auto-rickshaw and arrested its driver Akter Hossain.

Strong Indo-Bangla relations catalyst for Assam's economy, says Gogoi

ANI, New Delhi

Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi yesterday called for strengthening India-Bangladesh relations, stating that it would provide an impetus to the economy of the northeast, affected badly over the years.

The call comes just a day after Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh's historic visit to Dhaka.

Speaking to reporters here, Gogoi said, "The dispute between India and Bangladesh over the boundary has been going on since the creation of Bangladesh. There is

no doubt about that.

"As far as the agreement is concerned, the area has to be demarcated also. There are certain areas we call adverse possessions and certain known as undemarcated territories.

"We want to settle our disputes so that the relationship between India and Bangladesh improves in every manner. We would want connectivity also because earlier it was a part of India.

"So, whole of the northeast is backward and has become a land locked region because connectivity

is not good be it road, rail or waterway. The whole economy of north-east is badly affected. We want our relations with our neighbours to improve."

The protocol to the agreement concerning demarcation of Land Boundary between India and Bangladesh and related matters was signed during the prime minister's recent two-day visit to Bangladesh.

Gogoi added, "So, the lands that Bangladesh has been claiming for years, that is three to four areas that is Baroibari (193 acres), it has been

all along with them and we conceded it to them.

"There is another area that is Pallathal Tea Gardens which they say is theirs, but we said no. The dispute has been on for years.

"Labourers at those areas want to be with them, the companies are also registered with them. Out of the 455 acres, Pallathal Tea Gardens we have agreed on only 74.5 acres.

"Then there is Nayagaon, which has 145 acres. We did not agree to them and further Dumabari area, we have acceded them 90 acres."

Jam-free Dhaka demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhakabashi, a socio-cultural voluntary organisation, arranged a game of top at Hazaribagh Park in the city yesterday demanding road accident- and traffic congestion-free Dhaka.

The organisation organised the programme for increasing awareness among the inhabitants of the city, says a press release.

Former adviser to the caretaker government ASM Shahjahan was present as the chief guest.

Dhakabashi President Shukkur Salek and Dhaka Writers' Forum President Humayun Ahmed spoke at the function.

Speakers urged the people to abide by the traffic rules for reducing traffic congestion and accidents.

They also demanded of the government to make all foot-paths free from illegal structures and hawkers.

They said easy process of getting machine-readable driving licence could decrease harassment and illegal means.

They also demanded renovation Chhoto Katra, Baro Katra, Lalbagh Fort and Nawab Bari in old city.

**GRENADATE ATTACK CASE
BNP alleges camera trial of Tarique**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government wants to keep Tarique Rahman away from the next parliamentary election by sentencing him through a camera trial in the grenade attack case.

"Government fears Tarique Rahman as he created a new dimension in politics through politics of development," he said at a discussion in the city's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh organised by BNP marking the third anniversary of Tarique's jail release day.

Tarique was arrested on March 7, 2007 on charge of corruption and released on September 3, 2008 on bail. Later he went to UK for medical treatment.

Alamgir said the government could not prove a single allegation against Tarique but they implicated his name into the grenade attack case using a false statement given by Mufti Hannan.

BNP leaders MK Anwar, Nazrul Islam Khan, Selima Rahman and Amanullah Aman also spoke at the discussion.



Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain visits repair works of Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway yesterday. The photo was taken from the Gazipur intersection.

PHOTO: STAR

Nurul Islam made Eastern varsity VC

METRO DESK



Prof Dr Nurul Islam has been appointed the vice-chancellor of the

Eastern University, says a press release.

Prior to his appointment, he worked as a professor of English department and dean of the Faculty of Arts at the same university.

Dr Islam was the founder chairman of the Department of English of the Jahangirnagar University. He was also the president, vice-president and general secretary of the Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association.

The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views. Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents. Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students. Star Campus helps link young minds together.



Two schoolgirls drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Two schoolgirls drowned in a pond at Bangram village under Boda upazila in Panchagarh yesterday afternoon.

The victims are Siddika Begum, 10, daughter of Dasimuddin and a student of class V of Shikarpur Brac School, and her cousin Shimu Akhter, 9, daughter of Samiruddin and a student of Class IV of Manikipir Government Primary School.

The locals said Siddika and Shimu did not know how to swim and went to take a bath with some other children in a pond near their house around 2:00pm.

At one point, Siddika and Shimu went underwater but did not come up. Sensing danger, the other children began calling for help, they said.

Family members rushed to the pond and began searching for the girls. At one point they recovered the two and rushed them to Panchagarh sadar hospital where doctors declared them dead, they added.

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Night

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