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BANE OR BOON?

A look into how dams cause the worst environmental disasters, extinction

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WIKILEAKS' NEW VENTURE

It claims to have exposed a global industry that gives dictators tools to spy on citizens

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BUTTERFLY FAIR AT JU

Promoting the importance of the small in maintaining ecological balance

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TIPAIMUKH POWER PROJECT

Delhi open to Dhaka's stake

Manmohan tells Hasina's advisers; reassures them of no-Tipai harm

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi



Manmohan Singh

Mentioning that Bangladesh would not be harmed by the 1,500MW Tipaimukh hydro-electric project, India now suggests that Bangladesh could acquire a stake in it by making an investment and getting electricity in exchange.

The offer was made yesterday during a meeting between Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and two advisers of Bangladesh premier Sheikh Hasina in New Delhi, sources said.

India also agreed to carry out a study on

the project before starting the work.

Hasina's foreign affairs adviser Gowher Rizvi and economic affairs adviser Mashiur Rahman flew to the Indian capital on Wednesday to discuss a range of issues including the Tipaimukh dam, which has drawn a lot of

public attention in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh became concerned following reports that a promoters' agreement was signed between National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC), Manipur

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Representatives of the organisations that have won HSBC-The Daily Star Climate Awards 2011 pose with the guests at Radisson Hotel in the capital yesterday. Five organisations -- one public and four private -- received the accolades for their contributions to environmental causes.

PHOTO: STAR

HSBC, Star honour climate heroes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saving the environment is not a daunting task but failure to do so has bigger consequences for the future generations.

Local environment activists, organisers and speakers yesterday voiced their concern about the growing challenges of global climate change and local environment degradation.

Their observations came at a ceremony in the city's Radisson Hotel, where HSBC and The Daily Star jointly awarded one government and four private organisations for their efforts in making a

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A few hurting democracy

PM critical of civil society members' role; opens int'l congress for civil philosophy

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the country's civil society members to play constructive role to further strengthen the foundation of democracy in the country.

She made the appeal while addressing the inaugural function of the 10th three-day conference of International Congress of Social Philosophy (ICSP) at the capital's Osmani Auditorium yesterday.

Mentioning her government's strong commitment to safeguard the people's voting and other democratic rights, Hasina said it is unfortunate that a group of people uses the banner of civil society "not for strengthening democracy, rather to weaken the foundation of democracy."

"Those who in the name of civil society raise voice for democracy do not always play the role in favour of

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UNO-led bodies run upazilas

Elected parishads remain dysfunctional in around 3 years

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Different ministries formed over 80 committees in the last three years to run development and other activities in Kazipur upazila of Sirajganj, keeping government executives at the helm of most committees, Mozammel Haque Sarker, chairman of Kazipur upazila parishad, has told The Daily Star.

He was given the scope to head only a few committees on less important matters while upazila nirbahi officers (UNO), the top government official at the upazila, were given the charge of the remaining committees including even those departments that have been brought under the parishad's jurisdiction, Mozammel said

over the phone.

"The UNO was given the authority to pick members of the committees headed by upazila chairmen."

When he and other upazila chairmen protested it, they were later made advisers to some of the committees.

"We have been made advisers. It means we are guests in our own houses. Nothing can be more shocking or funny than this," he added.

Abdul Majid Photo, chairman of Satoria upazila in Manikganj, said many committees were formed through circulars last year, and the number could cross 60. More than 30 of them are very powerful committees that are running all

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DCC-SPLIT BNP warns of non-stop agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday threatened to go for a non-stop movement to force the government abandon the splitting of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) into two.

"Dhaka is the capital of independent Bangladesh and it has a place in citizens' hearts. No conspiracy to bifurcate Dhaka will be tolerated," BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told a protest rally in front of the party's Nayapaltan office.

He urged all to make tomorrow's dawn-to-dusk

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Disappointing draw in Delhi

ANISUR RAHMAN, from Delhi

Bangladesh's quest for SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Championship glory got off to a stuttering start as they played out a goalless draw in their opening match against Pakistan at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium yesterday.

The result leaves Bangladesh with two difficult ties against Nepal and Maldives to negotiate before they can even get out of the group, much less dream of the title.

Coach Nikola Ivkovic was bold, choosing outright to go with three debutants in the playing eleven as Bangladesh went for the jugular inside an almost deserted stadium. The Macedonian's choice was largely

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See the Sports Page for SAFF Football Championship news

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A hill of let-down

PINAKI ROY

Pledges remain unmet.

Many provisions of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord could empower the indigenous people living in hills. But 15 years into the signing of the treaty, many of those provisions, including giving them the land rights and making functional the hill district councils, have yet to be implemented.

Continuous influx of Bangalees into the three hill districts -- Chittagong, Khagrachhari and Bandarban -- is putting pressure on the existing arable land triggering ethnic clashes, driving away the indigenous community into remote areas devoid of minimum civic services.

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People of the indigenous community hold a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday demanding implementation of the CHT peace accord.

PHOTO: STAR

AL extremely communal

Santu Larma vents out his frustration over peace accord stalemate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Santu Larma yesterday termed the ruling Awami League an extremely communal political party.

"In the 15th amendment to the constitution, it defined the 54 indigenous groups of the country as Bangalees in terms of nationality. This reflected the party's extreme communal identity," said Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, popularly known as Santu Larma, chairman of Parbatya

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Shantu Larma

Congratulations
Mr. Rubel Aziz
 Director, Partex Group and President, Gulshan Club for being elected as
 Chairman of **city bank**
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