

TIPAIMUKH DAM

India's attitude of 'no harm done' doubted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday doubted India's attitude of "no harm to Bangladesh by proposed Tipaimukh dam" and sharing of Teesta water, saying that India has historically dodged Bangladesh on water sharing issue several times.

Prof Moniruzzaman Mia, former vice chancellor of Dhaka University, said India has assured Bangladesh several times but did not deliver the promises. In his keynote paper, he cited examples of India's attitudes regarding water sharing and results of bilateral talks in the past.

Like Manmohan Singh, prime minister of India, Prof Moniruzzaman recalled, former premier N Rao assured his Bangladeshi counterpart Khaleda Zia in May 1992 that "India would not create any problem for her neighbour".

The professor thinks that for one or more decade, India would continue to say they would not do any harm to Bangladesh for a decade or so. "By that time, it would have built the storage/diversion structure", he said, talking of Tipaimukh dam.

Prof Moniruzzaman shared his thoughts at the seminar, "Water Sharing of Common Rivers", organised by the Centre for

Sustainable Development (CFSD) in the city's Cirdap auditorium.

CFSD secretary general Mahfuz Ullah said India's attitude has not changed though it assured it would not take any step likely to hamper the interests of the neighbours.

He said basin-wide management of international rivers could only give solutions acceptable to all. "Rights over water of international rivers are internationally recognised. It does not depend on kindness of anybody".

An ex-ambassador, Dr Mustafizur Rahman pointed at the knowledge gaps of Bangladeshi bureaucrats. "We are not prepared properly. We must know precise information on all aspects of water sharing of international rivers", he said.

According to Prof Dilara Chowdhury of Jahangirnagar University, India has already made dams on 34 international rivers out of the 54 common rivers the two countries share.

Zahirul Islam, former water secretary, said bilateral talks on water sharing would not bring any fruits, as India discounts Bangladesh due to its weak military power.

A former member of the joint river commission, Tauhidul Anwar Khan, said from his experience that Indian delegates were very good at delaying to reach consensus during the past water talks.

Fire breaks out at Bata showroom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out inside a three-storey Bata showroom at the city's Bangabandhu Avenue in the wee hours yesterday.

Mizanur Rahman, deputy director (DD) of Fire Service and Civil Defence, Dhaka division, said the Bata authorities claimed damages of property worth an estimated Tk 4 crore.

The fire started from an electric short circuit on the first floor of the Bata Bazar around 12:45am and soon engulfed the other floors, Paltan police said.

Rahman said paper-made shoe packets, shoe paste, and leather fuelled the blaze.

The fire service office formed a 3-member investigation committee, headed by DD (Operation) Bharat Chandar Biswas, in connection with the incident.

The three-storey Bata Bazar building adjoins the Awami League office.

BISHWA IJTEMA Preparatory jamaat begins

BSS, Gazipur

A five-day preparatory congregation began on Friday on the east bank of the river Turag to hold a three-day Bishwa Ijtema from January 13.

The Bishwa Ijtema would be held in two phases. The first ijtema will be held from January 13-15 and the second on Jan 20-22 next year.

Organisers said about one lakh devotees from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and other Muslim countries are taking part in the five-day preparatory jamaat, which will end on December 6.

Akheri munajat of the preparatory jamaat will be held on the evening of December 6 (Tuesday).

Call to make ACC independent

BSS, Dhaka

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Golam Rahman yesterday stressed the need for framing a law to make the commission independent for combating corruption.

The expansion of Information

Communication Technology (ICT) can reduce corruption from the society, he told the concluding ceremony of a three-day inter-university debating competition at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University.

The ACC chief said it is not possible to

root out corruption from the country in a day as it has taken shape in the society for a long time.

Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) in cooperation with the TIB organised the competition. The Dhaka University secured the first position.

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The IDLC Group continues to be a standard bearer for sustainable business in the Financial Sector.

The IDLC Group's 2010 Annual Report received multiple awards at the prestigious South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) Award ceremony recently held in Dhaka. IDLC bagged the Joint Winner under the Best Presented Accounts - Financial Services Sector category, 1st Runner Up in the Best Presented Accounts - Overall Winner, and a 'Certificate of Merit' in the Corporate Governance Disclosure category.