

## Ensure people-centred dev

Gowher tells D-8 Summit

BSS, Dhaka

Prime minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi called for placing people at the centre-stage of development pursuit.

He said this while participating at the 8th D-8 Summit in Islamabad, Pakistan on Thursday under the Chairmanship of Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari, said a message yesterday.

Dr Rizvi is leading the Bangladesh delegation, which includes Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes, on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The adviser viewed that the most valuable asset of the D-8 is its population numbering almost a billion.

D-8 has the potential to develop itself

into a pre-eminent position in the global economy and secure enhanced participation in the global decision-making process, he said.

He remarked that the realisation of this potentiality can never be possible unless people were given the central role.

Highlighting the "People's Empowerment and Development Model" of Hasina, adopted by the UN General Assembly, Dr Rizvi said the model was a multi-dimensional democratic approach with six mutually reinforcing multipliers.

These are eradication of poverty and hunger; reduction of inequality; mitigation of deprivation; inclusion of excluded people; acceleration of human development; and elimination of terrorism.

## Two more arrested over Ramu attacks

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two more people were arrested from different areas of Teknaf upazila in Cox's Bazar over recent attacks on Buddhist temples on September 29.

The arrestees are Momtaz Mian, 35, of Unchiprong area and Shamsul Alam, 40, of Doyangata area.

Police said they arrested the people in an overnight drive on Thursday night and early yesterday.

Shamsul Alam is number 11 accused in a case filed over the attack in Whykang Buddhist area while Momtaz Mian was detained on suspicion of his involvement in the incident, said Sub-Inspector Bhaktiar Uddin Chowdhury of Whykang Police Post.

During the attacks, pagodas and Buddhist houses were torched or vandalised by Muslim fanatics.

The violence was instigated by a faked Facebook page that showed an anti-Islam photograph tagged on a Buddhist youth's account.

PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT

## Efforts of graft conspiracy were underway: ACC boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Ghulam Rahman yesterday said there had been efforts of a corruption conspiracy in the Padma bridge project.

"The ongoing inquiry [by ACC] is for detecting the corruption conspiracy," he said in his interview with private television channel, ATN Bangla.

If the conspiracy can be proved and evidenced by documents, the ACC will file cases, he said. Otherwise the chapter will be closed, he added.

Earlier a competent source in the ACC said the ACC was likely to sue some top officials of Bangladesh Bridge Authorities

and Padma bridge project by mid-December for influencing the selection of the consultant for the troubled venture.

The WB cancelled its credit deal on June 29, saying it had proof of a "corruption conspiracy" involving Bangladeshi officials, executives of a Canadian firm and some individuals.

On September 21, the global lender decided to revive the deal after Bangladesh's government agreed to the bank's terms and conditions.

However, unless the ACC upgrades its inquiry into an investigation, the loaning process might remain stalled.

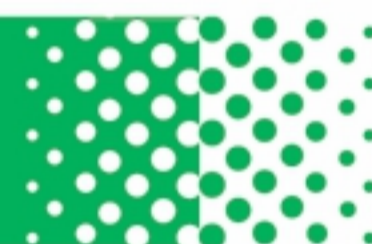
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