



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Millions of gallons of supply water go waste since Tuesday afternoon when a major pipe burst at Russell Square in the capital's Dhanmondi. As per Dhaka Wasa officials, the repairs should have been over by 10:00pm yesterday. The photo was taken around 1:00pm yesterday.

WASA PIPE BURST IN RUSSEL SQUARE

Millions of gallons go waste

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of homes in Kalabagan and adjoining areas went without water while millions of gallons went to waste since Tuesday afternoon when a major pipe burst at Russell Square in the capital's Dhanmondi.

With Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) unable to stop the flow for having no record of the pipe's valve's location, the crack continued to spill water out and into the adjoining Dhanmondi lake till last night.

Dhaka Wasa (zone-3) Executive Engineer

Nurul Islam said the repairs would be complete by around 10:00pm yesterday.

Labourers around 11:00am yesterday were seen trying to pinpoint the affected portion of the 18-inch pipe, running from Syedabad and a part of the capital's water supply network.

The pipe, installed in the mid-80s, burst due to pressure, said Anwar Hossain, Dhaka Wasa's Pipe Line Inspector from Lalmatia office, while overseeing the repairs.

He said there was one valve on Mirpur Road, near Kalabagan, but its position was lost under the tarmac layers laid over the years.

**BISHWAJIT MURDER
Bail of 3 suspects denied**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail petitions of three suspects arrested in connection with the murder of Bishwajit Das during BNP-led opposition's blockade on December 9 last year.

On that day, a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League cadres swooped on Bishwajit, 24, a tailor boy who was on his way to work, near Bahadur Shah Park in Old Dhaka taking him for a pro-blockade activist involved in a cock-tail blast.

The court passed the order after lawyers of Mamun-ur-Rashid, Faruque Hossain, Kazi Nahid-uz-Zaman Tuhin submitted two separate bail petitions.

In his order, judge said investigation of the case is now at primary stage, and it reveals that the arrestees were involved in the killing. So, the bail petitions are rejected.

Police arrested four people including the three from court areas in Puran Dhaka two days after the incident of Bishwajit murder for their "suspicious movement".

Police have gone through track records of the four arrestees but no allegation was found, sources said.

Tarique serves legal notice on PM again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday served another legal notice on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, asking her to withdraw the statement she made against him on December 1 last year regarding laundering money and leading a luxurious life abroad.

Barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon sent the notice to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on behalf of Tarique, asking her to publicly express her "unconditional apology" for her statement within the next 15 days.

Earlier on January 2, Tarique sent the first legal notice to the premier asking her to publicly apologise for the statement within 28 days; the date expires today.

Receiving no response till yesterday, Tarique sent the notice for the second time.

The first legal notice mentioned that Hasina at a public rally at Moulvibazar last year said Tarique has property in London and he was leading a luxurious life there with laundered money.

Tarique, elder son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, has been living in London for treatment since September 2008.

**WAR CRIMES TRIBUNALS
Prosecutors get coordinator**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a bid to bring further momentum in the war crimes trial, the government yesterday appointed a chief coordinator for the prosecution team.

The law ministry appointed MK Rahman, additional attorney general at the Supreme Court, to the post to carry out the additional duty, said Law Minister Shafique Ahmed.

"MK Rahman will supervise the entire prosecution team as to whether the cases [at the two international crimes tribunals] are being conducted properly [by the prosecution]."

Asked if the appointment comes as a result of the prosecution's underperformance, the minister said, "This is to improve [the team] and to bring further momentum in the trial."

A senior prosecutor said, "I think, there was a lack of coordination in the prosecution team. It's a good decision. It would be better if the decision came earlier."

The 27-member prosecution team is dealing 13 war crimes cases at the two tribunals, trying those who allegedly committed crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971. Eight cases are now at trial stage and five others at pre-trial stage.

On March 25, 2010, the government announced formation of the first tribunal. The second tribunal was created on March 22 last year for quick disposal of the cases.

Dhaka to host IAS int'l confce this May

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka will host the 19th International Conference of Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) in early May.

This was officially disclosed when the IAS Director General Moneef Zou'bi met Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at her office on Tuesday.

The conference will bring together renowned scientists from the member-states of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, said a foreign ministry press release.

Zou'bi arrived in Bangladesh on Tuesday on a three-day visit.

Later, Dipu Moni chaired a session of the National Committee on the 19th Conference of IAS at the foreign ministry.

Dhaka wants stronger ties with Jakarta

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday stressed the need for direct air connectivity and finding out new avenues of bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and Indonesia.

She urged the Indonesian government to encourage their local importers to import pharmaceutical products from Bangladesh.

Dipu Moni made the request when newly appointed Indonesian Ambassador Iwan Wiranataatmadja paid a courtesy call on her at the foreign ministry in Dhaka yesterday.

At the meeting, the foreign minister thanked the government of Indonesia for supporting Bangladesh's inclusion in the Asia Europe Meeting (Asem).

She emphasised regular holding of joint commission meetings between the two countries.

Dipu Moni also expressed hope that the president and the foreign minister of Indonesia would visit Bangladesh in near future.

Iwan Wiranataatmadja reiterated his commitment to make efforts to take bilateral ties between the two countries to a new height.

Earlier, the ambassador paid a courtesy call on Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque.

They discussed different issues of mutual cooperation and concern between the two countries.

The Indonesian envoy presented his credential to the president on January 20.

**IMPROVING QUALITY OF EDUCATION
Active participation of politicians stressed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More attention and active participation of politicians are needed for overall improvement of standard of education in the country, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

Media should play a more active role for promoting the country's education sector rather than focusing only social problems, they said.

They made the remarks at the roundtable styled "Primary Education of Bangladesh: Principles, Influence, Ownership" organised by Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), an affiliated organisation of Brac University, at Brac Centre Inn in the capital.

Brac's Programme Head of Educational Research Unit Samir Ranjan Nath said, "The political will is still absence in promoting

education sector, even there is no discussion on education in the parliament."

The government should rethink the existing system of providing fund to the sector, he said adding that the government schools were failing to ensure quality education.

IGS Senior Adviser Dr Manzoor Ahmed said the government should set up a statutory permanent education commission to improve quality of education.

Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research of Director Dr Abul Ehsan, Planning Ministry's Joint Chief for Education Wing Nurul Hoque Majumder, National Front of Teachers and Employees leader Kazi Faruque Ahmed, and Jahangirnagar University (JU) former vice chancellor Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, among others, spoke on the occasion.



Chairman of Biswa Sahitya Kendra Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, second from left, receives a cheque for Tk 5 lakh from President and Managing Director of Bank Asia Md Mehmood Husain at the Sahitya Kendra in the capital on Tuesday. The bank donated the amount for purchasing books for the literature centre. PHOTO: COURTESY

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