



ITYADI'S 25 YEARS

The man behind the popular TV show says he wants to move along with time

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USERS' PRIVACY BREACH

Iran court summons Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg

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River, where?

Climate change upsets life, livelihood alike; major rivers flowing below usual level

PINAKI ROY

Only a year ago, Mostafa Mia used to fish in the eastern channel of the Jamuna under the Bangabandhu bridge.

Now, the channel is dead; it is nothing but a strip of sandy land.

The water level of the Jamuna has never dropped to this low in the last one decade. At Bahadurabad point on May 14 this year, it was 14.51 metres above sea level, and 15.82m and 15.22m on the corresponding date last year and the year before.

With the river drying up, Mostafa, a fisherman from Char Belta village of Tangail, is losing his earnings. "I used to earn Tk 700 a day last year. But this year my daily income is not more than Tk 300," he says.

Liakat Hossain of the same village used to have boat trips for tourists from Beillabari ghat. He says, "Last year, there was water at the ghat point. It is all dry now. Tourists do not want to walk the sandy char land to get on a boat."

According to the Water Development Board, the Jamuna, Padma, Meghna are now flowing at levels lower than that in mid-May in the last two years.

The trend is affecting all the small rivers, tributaries and canals, ruining livelihoods of fishermen, boatmen and others dependent on the water bodies.

The Padma at Hardinge bridge point was flowing at 5.36m above sea level on May 14 this year and 5.82m and 5.44m in 2013 and 2012.

On the same date, the water level of the Meghna at Bairab bazaar point was 2.64m this year, despite some

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It is hard to believe this sandy land is the eastern channel of the mighty Jamuna. The photo was taken from Bangabandhu bridge on April 28 when the water level of the river had come down for lack of rain and reported withdrawal of water upstream. However, over the last few days, rainfall caused a rise in water level.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

India to consider actively

Modi assures Dhaka on Teesta, land boundary issues; PM writes to new Indian PM for resolving all pending issues

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

In a quick response to the Bangladesh premier's call for speedy resolution of all pending issues between the two countries, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured that his government will actively consider Teesta water sharing and land boundary issues.

Modi gave the assurance when Bangladesh Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury called on him at Hyderabad House in New Delhi yesterday.

"Mr Modi said since India values its friendship with Bangladesh, we will give active consideration to Teesta and Land Boundary Agreement", she told the media after the half-an-hour

meeting.

This was the first top-level contact between the two nations since the change of government in India.

The Speaker represented Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Modi's swearing-in ceremony on Monday.

Asked about the possibility of Modi travelling to Bangladesh, she said, "He is very keen to visit Bangladesh at the earliest, and he is looking forward to it".

At a separate media briefing in New Delhi, Indian Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh said Modi requested the Bangladesh Speaker to convey his warm greetings and best wishes to Hasina, and said he looked forward to receiving her in India at an early date.

Sujatha said Modi appreciated the

cooperation extended by Bangladesh to work together with India in all areas of mutual interests, including security, power, border management, and rail and road transport.

Shirin, who is expected to return to Dhaka today, also called on Indian President Pranab Mukherjee at the Rashtrapati Bhavan yesterday evening, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

The Speaker told journalists that she handed Modi a letter from Hasina, who felicitated him on his swearing-in as Indian PM, and renewed her invitation to him to visit Bangladesh.

This was Hasina's second letter to Modi within 10 days. She had also phoned him after the Indian election.

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'ANTI-PARTY' COMMENTS

Ershad asks GM Quader to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman Hussein Muhammad Ershad yesterday issued a notice to his younger brother and party president GM Quader asking him to explain his "anti-party comments" in articles recently published in two Bangla newspapers.

Quader was also asked to come up with a "satisfactory reply" by June 3 or else, he would be expelled from the party, according to JP sources.

The notice reads, "The

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EKRAM MURDER

Feni BNP leader Minar arrested

Abid gives confessional statement to court

STAR REPORT

The Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday arrested Feni BNP leader Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury Minar, the lone named accused in the case filed for the brutal killing of Phulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haque.

Also yesterday, Abidul Islam Abid, who, according to the Rab, shot Ekram from close range with a 7.62mm pistol provided by Jihad, admitted to his crime before a Feni court.

Convener of Feni unit Jatiyatabadi Tanti Dal, Minar was arrested from the capital's



cantonment area in the afternoon, Paritosh Ghosh, superintendent of Feni police, said at a press briefing.

Minar contested the Phulgazi upazila polls last two times but lost to Ekram on both occasions.

In primary investigation, police have found evidence of Minar's involvement in the killing, Ghosh told The Daily Star over the phone last night.

A team of Feni police was taking Minar to Feni from Dhaka when this report was filed at 2:00am.

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Movement soon to oust Hasina

Says BNP chief
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night threatened that her party would soon wage a movement to oust the Sheikh Hasina government "braving the law enforcers' bullets".

"We'll soon initiate a movement. I'll announce such programmes this time that no one will back out from them. People are even ready to brave bullets," she said.

She made the comments when the family members

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RALLY AT MUNSHIGANJ

20 conditions for Khaleda!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After facing repeated obstacles from the law enforcement agencies in holding rallies in and around the capital, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will address a rally in Munshiganj today to protest the recent abductions, killings and forced disappearances across the country.

Preparations have been completed already for the rally at the Munshiganj launch ghat, BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed told newsmen at the party's Nayapaltan headquarters yesterday.

Munshiganj police and the district administration have given permission to the BNP to organise the rally on 20 conditions, which include ending the rally before sunset, not making any provocative comments at the meeting and not carrying sticks to the rally, reports our Munshiganj correspondent.

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Inedible food in WC hotels

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DAYS TO GO
FIFA WORLD CUP
Brasil

REUTERS, Sao Paulo

Brazilian health and safety officials raided the England and Italy team hotels for next month's World Cup and confiscated fish, butter, ham and other food past their sell-by dates.

More than 50 kilograms of food deemed unfit for consumption was taken from the Portobello Hotel where Italy will stay and another 2kg was removed from England's Hotel Royal

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Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury meets Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi yesterday, a day after she attended the latter's swearing-in ceremony.

BLACK MONEY TIB against whitening

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday called upon the government not to give amnesty to black money in the upcoming budget, describing such privileges as unconstitutional, unethical and discriminatory.

It also urged the government to specify budget allocations for the defence sector, ensuring transparency, openness and accountability to taxpayers.

"This is important not because defence is one of the sectors having high allocations, but to establish openness

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'Shamim never helped Nur Hossain flee'

Shahid Chairman claims in statement identical to the AL MP's; alleges quarters out to frame Shamim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Slain Narayanganj panel mayor Nazrul Islam's father-in-law Shahidul Islam yesterday contradicted earlier statements by his other relatives over Awami League lawmaker Shamim Osman's role in prime accused Nur Hossain's escape from the country.

Speaking at a press conference in Dhaka



Reporters Unity office, Shahidul, locally known as Shahid Chairman, claimed Shamim did not assist Nur in fleeing the country.

Shahid left the venue immediately after reading out his written statement to the newsmen. He did not take any questions.

His statement came in the wake of the leak of a phone conversation between

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Modi talks terror, trade with Pak PM
Calls on Sharif to prevent attacks on India

AFP, New Delhi

India's new Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday called on his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif to crack down on militant groups while stressing his desire for closer economic ties, the foreign ministry said.

Modi "underlined our concerns related to terrorism" to Sharif during landmark talks in New Delhi on the first day of his term in office, said Indian foreign secretary

Sujatha Singh. "We want peaceful and friendly relations with Pakistan. However, for such relations to proceed it is important that terror and violence is brought to an end," Singh told reporters after the meeting.

She added that Modi conveyed the message that Islamabad must "abide by its commitment to prevent its territory and territory it controls being used to stage terror

attacks on India."

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