

# CHINA'S DAM ON BRAHMAPUTRA Get info on possible impacts on Bangladesh

## Two MPs ask govt, expressing worries in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two lawmakers yesterday expressed serious concern in parliament over China operating a dam across the Brahmaputra River for hydropower and urged immediate measures by the government to avoid its negative impacts on Bangladesh's environment.

Mayeenuddin Khan Badal of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, a partner in the ruling coalition, and Abul Kamal Azad, chief of Bangladesh Nationalist Front, demanded that the water resources minister come up with an in-depth and clear statement in parliament on the issue.

"We don't know how much it concerns the government... Experts say the dam would have serious ecological impacts on Bangladesh as the Brahmaputra is our biggest source of water," Badal said on a point of order.

"All our rivers and distributaries of the Brahmaputra will SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# Govt to take stock of all officials' performance

## Development of mechanism underway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet division yesterday formed a committee to introduce a performance management system in all ministries and government agencies because of poor services at the public offices and their failure to properly implement development projects.

The eight-member core committee led by the secretary-in-charge of coordination and reform in the cabinet division will review best practices in different countries and draft a system, detailing how to manage, monitor and measure the performance of employees and how to award them incentives accordingly.

Countries like India have separate performance management divisions to ensure that public offices deliver services efficiently and save government money.

Each ministry in India annually receives a performance score based on its achievements in the past year, and all employees from the secretary to the staff at the lowest tier get incentives accordingly.

An official of the cabinet division told The Daily Star that Bangladesh was going to introduce the system with assistance from development partners.

On November 12-13, the division supported by the World Bank held a workshop, "Designing and Implementing Government Performance Management Systems", where top officials of various government agencies were present.

The committee will also recommend SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# JUBO DAL MAN KILLING All accused acquitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

All the accused in a murder case, including Helal Akbar Chowdhury Babar, a listed terrorist and an expelled leader of Jubo League, filed over killing Jubo Dal activist Azad Ali Khan in 1996 were acquitted yesterday.

As the charges against the accused could not be proved, they were acquitted, said Public Prosecutor Ayub Khan.

Judge Reza Tareque Ahmed of Chittagong Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal gave the verdict.

On April 9, 1996, Jubo Dal activist Azad Ali was shot dead during a procession in Nandankanon area SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# NEWS IN brief

## Exhume Mahajabin's body: Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered to exhume the body of Dr Shamarukh Mahajabin, who was found dead at her in-laws' house in the capital's Dhanmondi on November 13.

The court ordered the deputy commissioner of Jessore to take steps in this regard following a petition, filed by Nurul Islam, father of Mahajabin. He rejected the autopsy report, conducted by Dhaka Medical College, which claimed that she had committed suicide.

Mahajabin's husband Humayun Sultan was arrested after a murder case had been filed by her father.

## 5 suspected militants sent to Dhaka from Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Five suspected militants, including a Pakistani and a local Awami League leader, who were arrested in a Chittagong city hotel Sunday and remanded for five days the next day, were sent to Dhaka yesterday for interrogation.

## Missing girl's body recovered from wetland in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the body of a nine-year old girl from a wetland in the capital's Bhatara a day after she had gone missing.

Locals noticed the body of Farjana Akter Liza, daughter of Faruk Hossain of Saiednagar, stuffed in a plastic sack floating in the water. Her hands were tied, with injury marks all over her body, police said.

## Cardiff Int'l School ICT fair ends

CITY DESK

The two-day ICT fair at Cardiff International School, Dhaka ended recently.

Students of the school developed and showcased unique software that could help solve everyday problems. Omi Ashraf, a class VII student, developed a software, which could facilitate detection of cybercrimes committed through social media such as facebook and twitter, and edify them on the socio-economic condition, development, history, the liberation war of the country.

The adolescent listeners will also develop their own programmes, said speakers.

Nance Webber, chief of Communication for Development at Unicef Bangladesh, and Kazi Akhtar Uddin Ahmed, director general of Bangladesh Betar, were present.

# Stop charging SSC candidates extra exam fees

Orders HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to immediately stop charging additional examination fees from SSC candidates at the schools across the country.

Earlier on November 10, the court issued a rule on suomoto move asking the government to explain as to why charging the extra examination fees should not be declared illegal, said Assistant Attorney General Swarup Kanti.

The rule came following a Bangla daily report saying that the fee for a person has been fixed Tk 1,400 by the government, but they have to pay eight times more.



Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation Isabella Lövin takes a selfie with some students of Hazi Sayed Ali Khan High School in the capital's Mirpur-14 yesterday after inaugurating newly constructed safe drinking water and sanitation facilities there, and at Lalashori Model Government Primary School, funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Prior to that, she visited a slum at Bhashantek where WaterAid Bangladesh, and DSK have been working for the last three years.

PHOTO: COURTESY

# Public pressure forced govt to arrest Latif

Claims Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has been compelled to send former minister Abdul Latif Siddique to jail bowing to the public pressure, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday, a few hours after he accused the administration of creating a smokescreen over the ex-Awami League leader's arrest.

Latif was sent to prison yesterday in cases filed "for hurting religious sentiments of Muslims". Two months ago, on September 28, the former posts, telecommunications and ICT minister commented on Hajj, Tablig Jamaat and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeb Wazed Joy in New York.

His remarks incensed a section of people, particularly the Islamist groups.

Fakhrul was talking about Latif's arrest at a memorial meeting on Piash Karim, a professor, in the Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital, in the afternoon.

Earlier in the day, when addressing a press conference at BNP chief Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office, he accused the government of trying to gain political mileage by instigating protests by religious Muslims and projecting it as the SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# HC questions legality of Mosharraf holding 2 posts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of Mosharraf Hossain holding the posts of a minister and chairman of a profitable company simultaneously.

Mosharraf, the housing and public works minister, was also chairman of Peninsula Chittagong, which is a profitable and listed company, in violation of the constitution.

The HC, after a writ petition, issued a rule asking Hossain and the government to explain in three weeks under what authority Mosharraf is holding the office of a minister and as to why he should not be SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES Saima calls for ICT use to empower them

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Saima Wazed Hossain, chairperson of the National Advisory Committee on Autism in Bangladesh, yesterday called for effective use of information and communication technology to empower persons with disabilities.

Giving a PowerPoint presentation at a conference on "Empowerment: The Role of Information and Communication Technologies for Persons with Disabilities" at Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi, she said ICT has remained an underutilised tool in low-resource countries like Bangladesh for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the social mainstream.

Saima, also an expert adviser of WHO on mental health, outlined the steps needed for changes in this field like holding national awareness campaigns and developing white papers.

She also suggested training of parents and caregivers to be partners in the education sector and treatment of persons with disabilities.

Encouragement of all stakeholders to take concrete actions for empowerment of persons with disabilities through the use of ICT was one of the major objectives of the three-day conference organised by Unesco.

# Most adolescents unaware of life skills: Unicef

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three of every 10 adolescent girls in Bangladesh get married between the ages of 15 and 17 years, according to a recent survey of Unicef.

The study says most of the 29 million adolescent boys and girls in the country, or people between the ages of 10 and 19, are unaware of the "facts for life" and necessary information for their "life skills".

Unicef shared the findings during the launch of the "Adolescent Radio Listeners Initiative", as part of which adolescents will listen to certain programmes of Bangladesh Betar and interact on issues about their rights and healthy lifestyles.

Bangladesh Betar and Unicef Bangladesh jointly organised the launching ceremony at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

Speaking as chief guest, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Innu said the aim of the listeners' club was to make the young people aware about the demerits of child marriage, drugs, child labour, militancy, and edify them on the socio-economic condition, development, history, the liberation war of the country.

The adolescent listeners will also develop their own programmes, said speakers.

Nance Webber, chief of Communication for Development at Unicef Bangladesh, and Kazi Akhtar Uddin Ahmed, director general of Bangladesh Betar, were present.

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# Speeding bus kills army man in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A soldier of the Bangladesh Army died on the spot in a hit run by a speeding bus in the capital's Cantonment area yesterday.

The bus of Jabalenoor Paribahan rammed Nazmul's, 25, motorcycle from behind, said police. Later, residents of the area set two buses of the same agency on fire in protest, and vandalised other vehicles there, police added.

# Government has

FROM PAGE 3

the march-past of the 5th Corps and took salute. Chief of Army Staff General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan, among others, were present.

He asked the members of the armed forces, especially the Signal Corps, to work with dedication and sincerity to protect national security and sovereignty through continued development of their professionalism and skills.

The president said overall development of the Signal Corps is very important for national security and the government has been working towards that end.

# Families must be

FROM PAGE 3

The parishad in association with different organisations launched a two-week long programme to observe the international fortnightly campaign for eliminating violence against women and observing Human Rights Day.

The programme includes -- discussions, rallies, processions, distribution of awareness leaflets, arranging folk song and view-exchange meetings.

# JCD dissidents lock

FROM PAGE 3

The JCD leaders accused BNP students affair secretary Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anne and assistant student affair secretary Sultan Salahuddin Tuku of putting men of their choice on the committee.

Sources said the office was locked around 4:00pm yesterday.

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