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Feni water given; wait on for Teesta

Hasina holds talks with Modi; discusses Rohingya, NRC, trade and connectivity issues

STAR REPORT
With Dhaka eagerly waiting for the signing of the Teesta water-sharing deal, Bangladesh and India yesterday signed an MoU allowing India to take 1.82 cusec water from the Feni river.

The agreement was signed following a meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi.

"Both the leaders appreciated the decision taken at the water resources secretary-level meeting in Dhaka for an early start of the work on the withdrawal of 1.82 cusec water from the Feni river for drinking purpose of the people of Sabroom town in Tripura," said an India-Bangladesh joint statement.

The deal on the Feni river comes amid Dhaka's frustration over not signing of the Teesta deal, which was scheduled to be inked during the then Indian PM Manmohan Singh's visit to Dhaka in 2011. It was not possible due to opposition from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Water of the Teesta is crucial for Bangladesh's northern region where farmers depend heavily on underground water for irrigation during the lean season.

Hasina yesterday said the people of Bangladesh were awaiting eagerly for the signing and implementation of the Framework of Interim Agreement for sharing of the Teesta waters, as agreed upon by both governments in 2011.

The Indian PM said his government was SEE PAGE 2 COL 1
PM RECEIVES 'TAGORE PEACE AWARD 2018' - PAGE 2



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian PM Narendra Modi shake hands as the latter receives her at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi yesterday.

Dhaka, Delhi sign seven documents

Hasina, Modi open three projects

UNB, New Delhi

Bangladesh and India yesterday signed seven bilateral documents, aiming to further strengthen the relations between the two countries.

The documents were signed, exchanged, adopted and handed over after a meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi at New Delhi's Hyderabad House.

The two leaders witnessed the signing and exchange of the documents -- six new and a renewal.

The bilateral documents are MoU for providing a Coastal Surveillance System, the Standard Operating Procedure

PHOTO: PID

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Geneva Camp erupts

50, including 15 cops, hurt in pitched battles between residents and police during demonstration for free, uncut power supply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 50 people, including 15 cops, were injured as Geneva camp residents and police clashed in the capital's Mohammadpur during a demonstration for free and uninterrupted power supply at the camp yesterday.

Around noon, camp residents blocked nearby Gaznabi Road, protesting frequent load shedding.

As local ward councillor Habibur Rahman Mizan, along with his supporters, went to talk to the Bihari protesters, an altercation broke out between the two groups.

At one stage, the councillor came under attack, police said. To disperse the agitating crowd, police charged baton, fired rubber bullets and tear gas canisters.

The protesters then threw brick chips at the law enforcers. Some of them vandalised a police pickup. The protesters, however, said they did not vandalise the vehicle.

Around half an hour later, police armoured personnel slowly rolled down the street near the camp. Behind it came about a hundred policemen -- some wielding sticks and many others shotguns.

At the other end of the road is the Geneva camp where hundreds of Biharis -- some of whom carrying sticks and brick chips -- were chanting slogans.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEO



SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Residents of the Geneva Camp in the city's Mohammadpur in running battles with law enforcers yesterday protesting power supply disruptions. The police, inset, storm the camp and clashed with protesters in the alleys.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

NHRC 'retirement home for bureaucrats'

Says Shahdeen Malik at programme on enforced disappearances

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission has become a retirement home for top government bureaucrats, said eminent jurist Dr Shahdeen Malik yesterday, criticising the process of appointment to top NHRC posts.

It is not possible that a man, who acted on every word of the directives given during his 30 to 35 years of service, will challenge the unlawful activities of the government and the state, he said at a discussion.

Moulik Odhikar Shurakkha Committee organised the discussion titled "United Nations' Recommendation on Enforced

Disappearance and Reality" at the Jatiya Press Club.

"In the government's bureaucratic culture, an officer cannot express dissent to his senior officials. He remains silent if he has a dissenting opinion. So, they are constitutionally unfit to run and represent the National Human Rights Commission," Shahdeen said.

He said their appointments to the NHRC only allows them to "stay well for three to six years longer with good transportation, a good number of foreign trips and other facilities".

"I have no expectation from the commission for the next three years [until the tenures of the newly

appointed officials are over]," he said.

The criticism came following the government's recent appointment of two high-level bureaucrats to the NHRC's top positions, including its chairman.

On September 22, former senior secretary Nasima Begum was appointed as the commission's chairman, while former secretary Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed was appointed as a full-time member of the NHRC.

Nasima succeeded Kazi Reazul Hoque, also a former secretary.

Reazul, before serving three years as NHRC chairman till July 1 this year, also served as a full-time member when Dhaka University Professor

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MIGRANT WORKERS

120 more return from Saudi Arabia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 120 more Bangladeshi migrant workers returned from Saudi Arabia on Friday night in the face of a crackdown on undocumented workers there.

The number of returned migrant workers from the Middle Eastern country over the past two days has now risen to 250.

A Saudia Airlines plane, carrying the workers, landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 11:25pm, said Shariful Hasan, head of Brac Migration Programme.

With them, around 12,000 Bangladeshi workers have so far been sent back home

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PROCUREMENT AT KAZI NAZRUL UNIVERSITY

8 going to Europe to inspect 15 lifts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An eight-member delegation of Mymensingh's Jatiya Kazi Nazrul Islam University is set to go on a 10-day Europe tour to inspect 15 lifts of two brands that are planned to be installed at the university.

From October 20, the delegation would visit Switzerland and Spain during the tour.

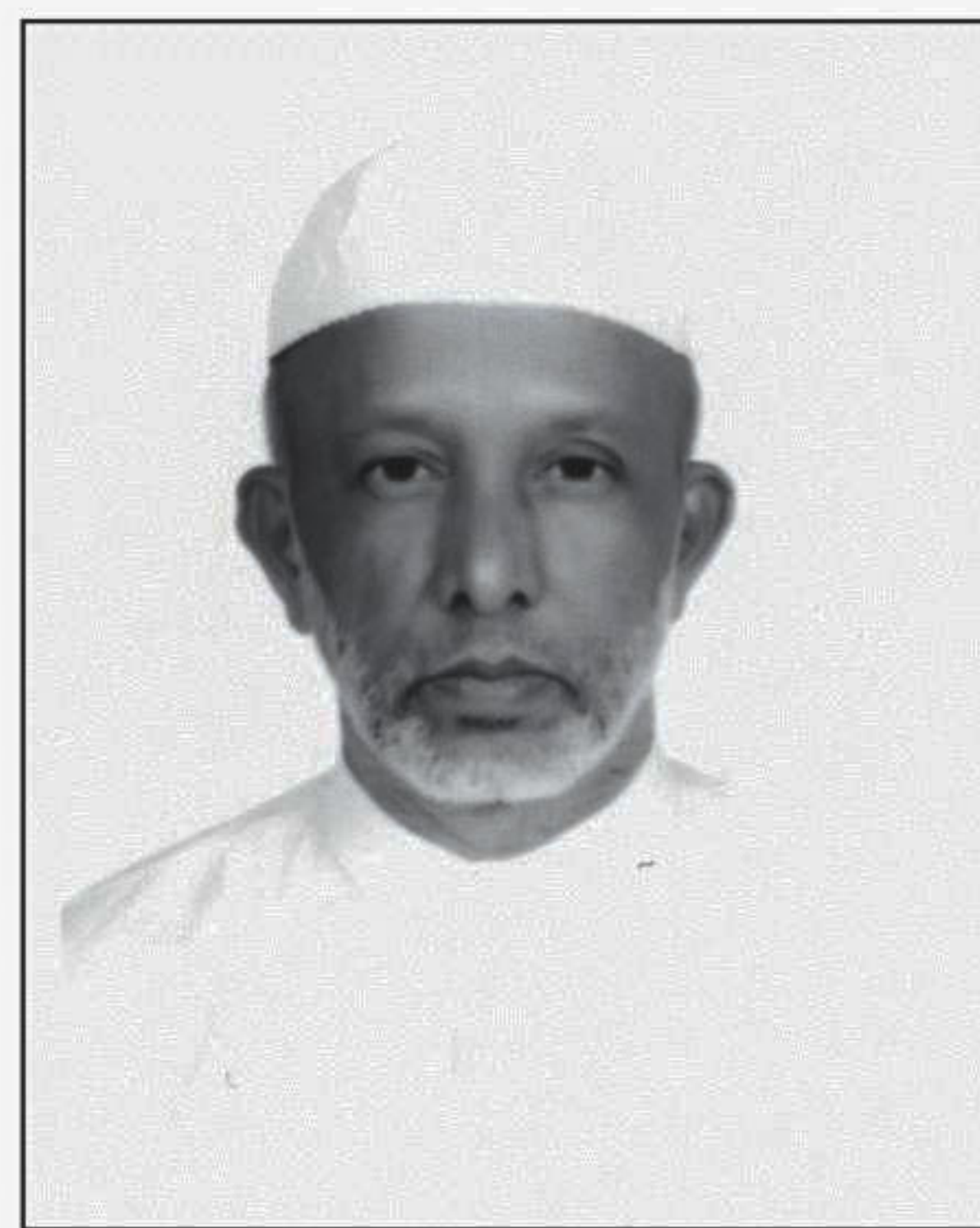
JKNIU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr AHM Mustafizur Rahman was primarily nominated to go on the trip but he withdrew his name on October 1 after facing criticism on social media, said an official seeking anonymity.

Contacted, the vice-chancellor said he was the head of the university's Local Project Implementation Committee. Thus, his name was included in the list of delegates.

"I noticed my name in the list and immediately withdrew it as I am not

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WE MOURN



(30 April 1956 - 05 October 2019)



Veteran Industrialist, Social Worker and Managing Director of Youth Group **Mr. Feroz Alam** had breathed his last peacefully on October 5, 2019 at the age of 63 (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihe Rajiun). He left with us his family of Wife, 1 (One) Daughter, 2 (Two) Sons and numerous relatives and well-wishers.

We deeply mourn for his sad demise and pass our sincere condolences to the grieving family. We seek prayers for his departed soul.

Chairman, Directors and All Employees of Youth Group