



## FENI RIVER WATER-SHARING AGREEMENT

# Protect your own interest before serving neighbours: Prof Serajul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday urged the government to ensure fair share of trans-boundary rivers, like Teesta, from India before helping the neighbouring country by giving its own water.

Bhasani Onusari Porishod, a civic platform formed following the ideology of legendary politician Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, organised the press conference on the Feni agreement at Jatiya Press Club in

the capital.

Speaking at the event, Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said the government can share water with neighbours, but it has to protect its own interest first.

"Sharing has to be fair. How could we give our water [from Feni] to others when we are not getting proper share [from Teesta]?" he said.

"Water is a vital issue for us. We cannot live without it," said the eminent professor. He also suggested the government to form a national

committee for rivers, which will take care of the water-sharing issues.

The platform's Secretary General Rafiqul Islam Bablu, citing several media reports, said India is already taking 72 cusec water, much more than the agreement of 1.82 cusec, from Feni by setting up 36 pumps at different locations of the river.

"If India continues to take water in such a way -- with and without agreement -- the rivers' flow will reduce significantly in the coming

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A worker installing a signal at Karwan Bazar level crossing yesterday. Railway took the initiative to ensure safety of people, who seem to be blissfully unaware of the danger and continue with their movement inside the barrier at the crossing.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Primary and Ebtedayee exams begin from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary Education Completion Examinations (PECE) and its equivalent Ebtedayee Education Completion Examination will begin across the country today with 29,03,638 students appearing.

A total of 25,53,267 general stream examinees will sit for PECE with 3,50,371 students sitting for Ebtedayee examinations this year, State Minister for Primary and Mass Education, Zakir Hossain, said on Thursday.

The examinations will be held at 7,458 centres across the country and twelve centres abroad. PECE exams will end on November 24.

On the first day, both general and madrasa students will take English examination, they will appear for Bangla on November 18, Bangladesh and Global Studies

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## KIDNEY DISEASES

# Dialysis services at upazilas stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dialysis services should be urgently extended to upazila level to serve critical kidney patients, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

Speaking at the opening session of the four-day 15th Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar organised by Kidney Foundation Bangladesh at its conference room in Dhaka, they also stressed innovative programmes to find new alternative treatment methods for treatment of kidney diseases.

According to the foundation, some 40,000 people suffer kidney failure each year, of whom 80 percent die due to lack of regular kidney dialysis and transplant service.

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) means damage to one or both kidneys. It happens slowly over a long period of time, and results kidney failing to filter blood the way it should. It can cause wastes to build up in human body and other health problems.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Harun Ur Rashid, president of Kidney Foundation, said, "Expansion of services for kidney disease treatment is urgent. It should be expanded to upazilas across the country. All medical colleges should be equipped with kidney transplant facilities."

"Our study reveals that 75 percent of patients who start kidney dialysis stop dialysis within six months due to unable to bear the expenses," said Prof Muhidur Rahman, secretary general of the foundation.

Speaking as chief guest, National Professor Brig (Rtd) Abdul Malik, president of National Heart Foundation, spoke of combined efforts to tackle the spectre of non-communicable diseases.

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## Shanti Parishad elects new committee

### Prof Anisuzzaman calls for unity at national council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amidst a boycott by the organisation's general secretary, the national council of Bangladesh Shanti Parishad was held yesterday.

Mozaffar Hossain Paltu was once again elected the platform's president and Md Shahjahan Khan, who was treasurer in the last committee, general secretary.

The event was held at Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh.

The proposal for a new 165-member committee -- including the president and general secretary for 2019-21 -- was passed at the council, said Paltu.

With the theme "No to extremism, terrorism and war for peaceful and safer world", Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman inaugurated the council as chief guest.

In his speech, the noted academician urged all to build a strong resistance against extremism, imbued with the spirit of Liberation War.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave the people an independent Bangladesh by defeating Pakistani forces in 1971, he said. "Bangabandhu also dreamt of establishing a non-communal state," Prof Anisuzzaman added.

He stressed the importance of unity among progressive forces to materialise that dream.

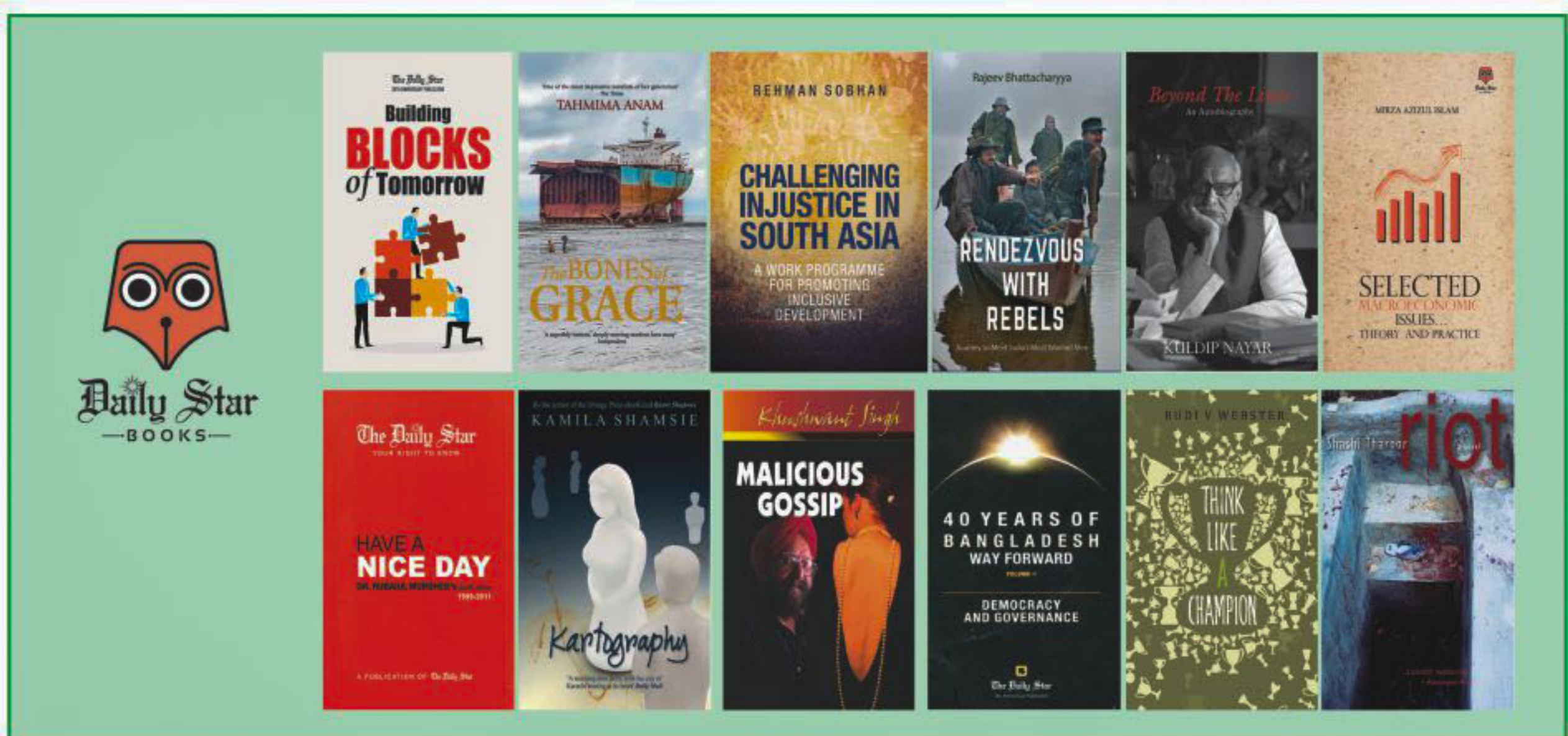
Among others, World Peace Council Executive Secretary Iraklis Tsavdaridis, All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation's Vice President Pramud Chandra Sinha and Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council Coordinator Rabindra Adhikari spoke at the council.

Meanwhile, the organisation's former general secretary MA Kashem told The Daily Star that he and some senior

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As a recognition of highest tax payer company in other categories, British American Tobacco Bangladesh Chairman Mr. Golam Mainuddin & Finance Director Stephan Matthiesen have received an honor award from Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal and National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman Md. Mosharraf Hossain Bhuayan. This is 4th time for BAT Bangladesh receiving this prestigious award without any break. BAT Bangladesh has paid total 19,133 crore taka as revenue in 2018.



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