



Help us implement the Delta Plan: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the country's development partners to help implement the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 that seeks sustainable development for future generations.

"The cooperation or participation of all at home and abroad -- our friendly countries or development partners -- is absolutely necessary in every field of knowledge, technology and exchange of experiences, starting from financing," she said.

She said this while

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Sitting amidst the heavy Dhaka gridlock and with no other means to protect himself from the scorching heat, a vegetable trader took up an innovative solution -- using a branch of a tree he collected from the street to get some relief. This photo was taken in Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Militant leader was hiding in Narayanganj Says Rab after arresting Huji-B founder ameer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mufti Abdul Hai, a fugitive convicted to death for attempting to kill Sheikh Hasina in 2000, started living in Narayanganj in 2009, after changing his name.

Founder ameer of Harkatul Jihad al Islami Bangladesh (Huji-B), Hai not only changed information of his NID but also those of all his family members to avoid arrest.

While in Narayanganj, he hardly went outside.

This is how Hai, who was also convicted to death in the 2001 Ramna Batamul blast case, has been hiding since 2006.

Khandaker Al Moin, Rab legal and media wing director, said this while briefing reporters yesterday, a day after Rab 2 arrested Hai from the district's Fatullah upazila.

Accused in at least 13 cases, Hai first went into hiding near his father-in-law's house in Cumilla's Gouripur, after his involvement in the attacks surfaced in 2006. He later shifted to Narayanganj.

He was founder and editor of the newspaper "Jago Mujahid", located in Dhaka's Khilgaon, where fellow militants, including Mufti Hannan, held meetings. The government banned it in 2000. He was arrested that year but got bail after two months.

New rail line to link Manikganj to Dhaka

Railway to start feasibility study



TUHIN SHUBHIRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Railway (BR) has taken a move to bring Manikganj under the railway network.

The state-run transport agency will do a feasibility study for building a rail line from Gazipur's Tongi to Paturia via Manikganj.

A Tk 48.09 crore feasibility-study project has already been sent to the Planning Commission last month for approval, BR officials said.

Once the line is built, it will encourage people to live in sub-urban areas like Manikganj and its adjacent locations. They will be able to swiftly go to and from Dhaka for daily work, which will ultimately take some pressure off the city, they said.

Besides, those travelling between Dhaka and northern and western parts will get a new

AT A GLANCE

- BR to do feasibility study for Gazipur's Tongi to Paturia via Manikganj
- Tk 48.09-cr project for study sent to Planning Commission last month
- Some BR officials conflicted about plan's details

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

- Line would encourage people to live in Manikganj, adjacent areas
- This would take pressure off the capital
- Those travelling between Dhaka and northern, western parts would get new route

route, which will reduce travel times.

However, it would take quite some time for all this. If the Planning Commission approves the project, BR will hire a consultant to carry out the study and work out the design, they mentioned.

If the line is found to be feasible, BR, depending on the availability of funding, will take another project to build it, they added.

However, some BR officials said the project may not be viable until the second bridge over Padma River, on Paturia-Daulatdia route, is built.

Mentionable, Daulatdia has long been connected to the railway network.

Besides, BR should work on building more important tracks, like one from Dhaka to Cumilla via Narayanganj to reduce the distance

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

GRAFT CASE Ex-SBACB director sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Captain (ret) M Moazzam Hossain, former director of South Bangla Agriculture and Commerce Bank (SBACB), to jail, after rejecting his bail petition in a case filed for misappropriating a loan worth Tk 12 crore.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order, after Moazzam, accompanied by his lawyer, surrendered before it, seeking bail.

During yesterday's hearing, Moazzam's lawyer said their client on April 19 secured anticipatory bail for two weeks after his surrender. The HC also directed him to surrender before it within the period.

Showing respect towards the court order, Moazzam surrendered before the Dhaka court and sought bail. The prosecution, however, opposed the petition, saying that the charges brought against the accused were primarily proven. So, his petition should be rejected.

Upon hearing both sides, the judge rejected his bail and ordered to send him to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

On January 17, ACC filed a case against former chairman of SBACB Amzad Hossain, Moazzam and six others for misappropriating the loan.

Three killed in road accidents in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three persons died in road accidents in Dhaka yesterday.

Two of the deceased were identified as Nargis (25), a homeless woman, and Sirajul Islam, a bus conductor of Victoria Paribahan.

Siraj was calling passengers near National Hospital in Kotwali area around 8:30am when another bus of the same paribahan hit him. He was declared dead around 10:30am at DMCH.

Meanwhile, three children brought Nargis to DMCH where doctors declared her dead around 7:00am. Police said she was lying on a road near Khilgaon Taltola Market. Details about the accident could not be known immediately.

Besides, SI Ranjit Ghosh of Hazaribagh police said a man was injured after being hit by an unidentified vehicle at Boubazar around 3:00am. Police took him to DMCH where he died around 4:30am.

160 return from Libya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of 160 Bangladeshis returned home from war-torn Libya yesterday under a voluntary repatriation programme coordinated by the government.

A chartered flight of Buraq Air carrying them landed at Dhaka airport in the morning.

Fakhrul Alam, assistant director at Expatriates' Welfare Desk, said they have provided immediate support to the returnees.

On May 12, 162 Bangladeshis returned home from Libya, known as a transit country to Europe for illegal migration. On March 3, another group of 114 Bangladeshis returned home from the North African country.

'Set up info cell at SC'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a petition with the High Court seeking its directive on the authorities concerned to establish an information cell and to appoint a designated officer for providing necessary information to the public and media.

Lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir submitted the petition saying that there is a provision for this under the RTI Act, 2009. But there is no information cell or designated officer at the Supreme Court. Manir also said he will move writ petition before the HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Khizir Hayat next week.

James withdraws copyright case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Musician James yesterday withdrew his case filed against four top officials of Banglalink Digital Communications Limited for violating copyright laws.

The four are Banglalink Digital Communications' CEO Erik Aas, Chief Compliance Officer M Nurul Alam, Chief Corporate Regulatory Officer Taimur Rahman and Head of VAS Anik Dhar.

Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court granted the petition after both parties appeared before it and informed that they had settled the matter amicably, said Tapash Kumar Pal, additional public prosecutor.

James filed the case with the court on November 10 last year against five officials for their alleged involvement in violating copyright laws.

According to case documents, Banglalink is using several of James' songs as caller tunes and welcome tunes, and in advertisements, which is a violation of copyright laws.



PRAYER TIMING
MAY 27



	Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-05	12-30	5-00	6-43	8-05
Jamaat	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-47	8-35

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

'Detection the only option'

Detecting carriers before marriage most effective way to prevent Thalassemia, say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"When my son was born, we were overwhelmed with joy. Unfortunately, the joy was short-lived," said, Md Abidur Rahman, father of Abrar Sadaf, who was diagnosed with Thalassemia soon after he was born.

"He was very pale, irritated and weak all the time. Seeing his abnormally pale skin, we went for the test and learnt that my son was born with Thalassemia," said Rahman.

Abidur and many parents like him were present in an event yesterday titled "Preventing Thalassemia: Significance of detecting carrier in formulating national plan", organised by Bangladesh Thalassemia Samity and Hematocare at Dhaka's Institution of Diploma Engineers commemorating World Thalassemia Day on May 8.

Due to genetic mutation, a Thalassemia patient starts to produce an abnormal amount of haemoglobin which gets destroyed very quickly.

A Thalassemia patient's haemoglobin count is abnormally low, which can be fatal unless the patient is supplied with fresh haemoglobin-rich blood from a healthy donor, according to speakers.

For instance, Abidur said Abrar has to go through blood transfusions frequently to keep his vital organs functioning. He has to continue this process for the rest of his life.

Speakers said at least 3 to 5 percent of Bangladesh's population are suffering from Thalassemia, with an expected life span of fewer than 30 years.

In many cases, children die within the first 15 years. Every year, 8,000 to 15,000 children are born with Thalassemia.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Round and prickly, with a hint of yellow radiating from within -- Kadam, the harbinger of monsoon, has adorned different trees in the capital, announcing the season's arrival. Vendors in Dhaka University area were seen collecting them from Suhrawardy Udyan and selling each for Tk 20. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Two 'Ansar al Islam' men held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counterterrorism officials claimed to have arrested two members of the banned militant group Ansar al Islam in Dhaka's Sher-E-Bangla Nagar area on Wednesday night.

They are: Rezaul Karim alias Raju and Junaid Mifa, Faruk Hossain, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star.

The arrestees in primary interrogation said they used to propagate their extremist ideology on social media platforms and groups, added the police official.

They also claimed to have numerous followers, he said.

A case has been filed against the arrestees with the Sher-E-Bangla Nagar Police Station.