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\$111.5m WB credit for strengthening local governance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank (WB) will provide a US\$ 111.5 million credit to Bangladesh to strengthen the local governance system by providing community services through a transparent fiscal transfer system.

An agreement was signed to this effect between the government and the WB at a city hotel yesterday.

Christine Wallich, World Bank country director, and Ismail Zabihullah, secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD), signed the agreement.

The WB credit will be utilised to implement the 'Local Governance Support Project (LSGP)' aimed at promoting the mandate and responsibility of the Union Parishads (UPs) and enhancing the capability and efficiency of the UP representatives.

The five-year project will start next month.

Under the project, all 4,488 UPs of the country will receive Tk 5,00,000 in block allocation a year, which will be spent on development activities such as construction of roads, bridges and culverts and development of agriculture and fisheries.

In its first year, the project will focus on capacity building in UPs, particularly regarding financial management and procurement. Following the capacity building period, the UPs will receive additional fiscal transfers through the government's block grant system.

In addition to the World Bank credit, in a parallel but coordinated initiative, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Union (EU) will also contribute US\$ 16 million for the 'second

generation' pilots.

These pilots will focus on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by enhancing UPs' role in service delivery, rural infrastructure development and linking local economy with markets for poverty reduction.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan was present at the signing ceremony as the chief guest.

He said the government is committed to strengthening local governance by increasing fiscal transfer to Union Parishads, so that they are able to respond to community develop-

ment priorities.

Christine Wallich said, "The emergence of effective local government could create space for broader political participation and bring with it a chance for greater accountability of the state to citizens."

She also said the project will make the UPs more capable of running their activities.

Local Government Division Secretary SM Jahurul Islam, PPRC chairman Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman and representatives of UP Chairman Association were also present at the ceremony.

Tk 46.20cr Buet budget okayed

Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (Buet) has approved its Tk 46.20 crore budget for 2006-2007 fiscal year, says a press release.

University syndicate sanctioned the budget at a meeting held recently at Buet.

Vice-Chancellor Md Alee Murtuza, also chairman of the syndicate, presided over the meeting.

The meeting also passed a revised budget of Tk 41.23 crore for 2005-2006 fiscal year. Of the total outlay, the University Grants Commission will provide Tk 42.60 crore and the university will finance Tk 3.60 crore from its own resources.



World Bank Country Director Christine Wallich and ERD Secretary Ismail Zabihullah exchange documents after signing an agreement at a city hotel yesterday while LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan looks on.

Tk 521 cr budget for public universities

The University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh announced a budget of Tk 521.00 crore for 2006-2007 fiscal year for the country's public universities (excluding

national university) on Tuesday, says a press release.

The budget was approved in its 109th meeting held at the UGC Bhaban. Chairman of UGC Professor M Asaduzzaman presided over the meeting. The meeting also approved a revised budget of Tk 494.36 crore for 2005-2006 fiscal, the minutes of 108th meeting of the commission, the minutes of 89th and 90th finance committee and the accounts of financial year 2005-2006. It also discussed about the progress of the implementation of the decision taken in the 108th meeting.

The meeting also approved the revised rules of UGC professorship and recommendations of selection committee and standing committee of promotion/upgradation of staff-officers of the commission.

UGC members Prof Monirul Hoque, Prof KM Mohsin, Prof Mahfuzul Haq, Prof M Mahub Ullah and Prof Faisal Islam Farouqui attended the meeting.

Besides, Prof M Badiul Alam, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University, Prof M Mosharraf Hossain of Islamic University, Prof Mohammad Abdur Rahman of Khulna University and Prof M Habibur Ahsan of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology were present on the occasion as part time members of the commission.

Secretary, UGC and all divisional heads of UGC were also present.

MALE INTRUSION INTO FEMALE HALL JU probe body takes seven more days

JU CORRESPONDENT

The probe body formed to investigate the June 7 intrusion of two unknown men into Jahanara Imam (JI) hall, a female dormitory at Jahannagar University (JU), has taken seven more days to publish report, as investigation has not been completed till Tuesday night.

The hall authorities handed Masud and Kawsar, two canteen boys, over to police on Tuesday in the wake of students' demonstration. Earlier, students of the dormitory prepared a list of suspected people comprising the names of hall guards and employees who used to frequent the hall.

The list includes the names of Imran and Abdul who are at large since the incident had taken place. The curved knives found on the spot as evidence were confirmed to be used in the hall canteen.

And the ways the intruders entered and fled the dormitory suggest that they were familiar with the entrances and exits of the dormitory, said a probe-body member requesting anonymity.

Associate Prof Khaled Hossain, chief of the probe body, said "The accused are being interrogated now."

1,420 arrested

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested some 1,420 people from across the country on various charges in last 24 hours ending 6:00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers also recovered 13 fire arms, seven other weapons and 66 bullets, said a Police Headquarters release.

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Requirements

- 4 years University or equivalent degree in Accounting/Finance or CA (Inter).
- Experience in relevant field, preferred.
- Experience in Company Tax, preferred.
- Ability of efficient data analysis with outstanding skills in MS Excel.
- Experience with Oracle or JDE, preferred.
- Good communication skills, both in English & Bangla.

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Requirements

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- Proficiency in MS Office.
- Good communication skills, both in English & Bangla.

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Applications are invited online at www.bdjobs.com/chevron or to the following address with position marked on top of the envelope on or before July 6, 2006.

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(Only short listed candidates will be called for interview)

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