

\$55m ADB loan for flood protection

Asian Development Bank (ADB) yesterday approved a loan amounting to SDR 38.116 million (equivalent to 55 million US dollars) for the secondary towns integrated flood protection project in Bangladesh, according to a message received from Manila, reports BSS.

The loan will directly benefit about 15 lakh people in Bangladesh, the message said.

The loan, to be drawn from the concessional Asian Development Fund, carries a service charge of 1 per cent per annum and has a repayment period of 40 years, including a grace period of 10 years.

The project area covers the six towns of Khulna, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Panchagarh, Habiganj and Moulvibazar which have as their highest priority flood protection. About 83 per cent of the population in the area belong to the low-income group and 65 per cent are estimated to be urban poor, including those living in squatter areas and slums.

The projects consists of four parts. The first covers flood protection works, including expansion and strengthening of embankments and flood walls, regulator structures and bank protection works. The

11 killed in Tangail

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In Rajbari, two people were killed and 30 hurt after a truck collided with a bus at 3pm Thursday about one kilometer off Rajbari town.

Of the victims, one died on the spot and the other succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital.

20 persons were admitted to the Rajbari Sadar Hospital and the Ram Krishna Mission Hospital.

The rest were released from hospitals after first aid. Among the injured conditions of Md Minhajuddin (35), Sohrab Ali (25), Siraj Mia (18), Nurul Islam (22) and two unidentified people were critical.

The drivers of the two vehicles escaped soon after the accident.

UNB from Pabna reports: Two people were killed and another was injured seriously in two separate accidents.

Witnesses said that an accident occurred when a Dhaka bound truck on Pabna-Nagarbari high way lost control and hit a road side tree early Thursday morning.

Truck driver Abul Hossain died on the spot and helper Azhar Alam (24), seriously injured, was taken to the Sadar Hospital.

Ill-fated Abul Hossain hailed from Aminbazar in Dhaka. A case has been filed with the Sadar thana.

In another accident, an employee of BRAC of Sathya branch was killed in Kashinathpur village of Sathya thana.

The victim Ayub Ali (22) who was going to office riding a Honda, was hit from behind by a truck at around 1 pm.

He succumbed to injuries on way to Sadar hospital. A case has been lodged with the Sathya thana.

Another report said: A septuagenarian was killed and 30

Bellal confesses murdering Nilufar

By Staff Correspondent

The servant Bellal who was arrested by the Detective Branch of police in connection with the Wednesday's murder of a housewife in the capital, was sent to jail Thursday.

DB-officials said that they had sent Bellal to jail after he confessed his involvement in the murder of Nilufar Ahmed of Basabo at the court of the magistrate.

Meanwhile, doctors at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, who conducted autopsy on Nilufar Ahmed, termed the death as 'sadtistic murder'.

The post mortem report was yet to be prepared but the doctors said the victim might have been raped by more than one persons there were many bruises on the body of the victim.

Hartal observed at Fenchuganj

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 3: A dawn-to-dusk hartal was observed today at Fenchuganj to press for withdrawal of the government's decision to shut down the natural gas fertilizer factory immediately.

The hartal call was given by Fenchuganj Ganadabi Parishad and supported by the all political parties and student organisations.

Rail communications between Sylhet, Akhaura sections, remained suspended for six hours due to the blockade of the rail lines at Matjgaon station. All trains including the inter-city trains were detained at Matjgaon and Kulaura stations.

Besides, all educational institutions, offices and other business establishments including the commercial banks remained closed during the hartal hours.

A number of protest meetings were held. However, there was no report of any untoward incident.

Int'l Day for Disabled observed

The International Day for the Disabled was observed in the country yesterday as elsewhere in the world, reports BSS.

The Ministry of Social Welfare yesterday organised a procession and a discussion in the capital on the occasion.

The procession participated by the disabled people and children was led by the Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam. The procession began from the High Court gate and dispersed at the Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises.

Speaking at the discussion held at the Shishu Academy auditorium, Tariqul Islam said the retarded persons were not the burden of the society. "We all should take care and help them to get them involved in the main stream of the development process of the country," he added.

He called upon the affluent section of the society to accumulate funds for undertaking welfare and rehabilitation programmes for the retarded persons and children.

State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Sarwari Rahman, in her address, said visually and hearing impaired persons could contribute in nation building activities if they get proper training and care.

She stressed the need for building special schools, training and rehabilitation centres, including national complex for special education, at governmental level in the country for the purpose.



A procession was brought out in the city yesterday in observance of the International Day for the Disabled. — Star photo

Emerging market on fringe

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and labour reasons, recent transition to democracy and a homogeneous society were identified as merits in the Bangladesh economy.

As part of the historical background, the report provides a 'brief table of events describing the progress of Bangladesh' from the year 1199 as the year Bengal is 'captured by Muslims' upto the February 1991 elections won by the BNP.

The Smith New Court report also briefly touches on the existing political structure and observes: 'due to largely homogeneous society of Muslim Bengalis there are no racial or religious lines upon which the parties (Awami League and the BNP) are drawn, the differences therefore come from ideological bias and personalities.'

Saying that the BNP is 'recognised as a moralistic party and the Awami League is characterised by its socialistic ideals and until recently was a proponent of Fabian economics', the report caustically remarks 'there is immense rivalry between Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia who have in the past taken contrary stances for the sake of being contradictory', while noting the 'deep-seated' dislike between the two leaders.

However, the report adds 'democracy is here to stay although the government is apparently weak ... and has been criticised as being weak-willed through its inability to carry out its manifesto and indecisive in its handling of issues', while noting that the 'same set' of problems would be faced by any other party in power.

The report notes that the private entrepreneurs are having a more equal chance of business opportunities.

'Locals profess that there is no going back: democracy is entrenched and any attempts by the military to regain power will be met with public intolerance,' it says 'private entrepreneurs agree that the investment opportunities have now settled on a level playing field, opportunities were previously routed to those closely linked to the leadership.'

It also notes that the government is still 'grappling' with elements who are resisting the reforms.

'Powerful interests in the

17 women held

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ur-Rashid, two agents of Mahub International of Malibagh in Dhaka, on charges of trafficking women.

The rescued women identified themselves as: Amena of Tongi, Monowara of Narsinghdi, Parva of Savar, Salma of Mirpur, Rahila of Jatrabari, Dhaka, Fatema of Demra, Tasrin of Daudkandi, Comilla, Parul Barisal, Nasima of Agargaon, Mamtaz of Tongi, Parvin of Mirpur, Mala of Nawabganj, Misrim Akhter of Kalabagan, Shahinur and Shima of Gazipur, Nazma of Badda in Dhaka and Beauty of Barisal.

Immigration officials at ZIA said that they held the women

PM for unity of Muslim ummah

The ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran, Mahmoud Bayat, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her secretariat office here yesterday, reports BSS.

During the meeting Begum Zia stressed the need for unity of Muslim countries for an end to repression of Muslims in different places.

She said skilled manpower of Bangladesh could be utilised to the mutual benefit of both the countries.

The Prime Minister thankfully recalled the assistance of Iran for the people of Bangladesh during natural disasters.

She extended invitation to Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to visit Bangladesh and conveyed her greetings to him.

The ambassador while conveying greetings from the government of Iran extended invitation to Begum Zia from President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to visit Iran.

He also said Iran would always cooperate with Bangladesh in all possible fields particularly in trade and cultural activities.

He said people of Bangladesh had a special place in the hearts of Iranian people and government.

Koirala supports Dal-bhat approach

KATHMANDU, Dec 3: Nepalese Prime Minister Grijia Prasad Koirala has said that he was looking forward to meeting Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and participating in the forthcoming SAARC summit in Dhaka, reports BSS.

While attending a dinner hosted in his honour by Bangladesh ambassador and Mrs S M Hossain at the 'Bangladesh House' here last night, Koirala said he would provide total support to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's 'Dal-bhat' approach towards poverty alleviation in the region.

The Nepalese Prime Minister recalled his meeting with Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and described her as a 'sincere friend of Nepal'.

Koirala wished resounding success of the forthcoming Seventh SAARC Summit under the able leadership of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as the new chairperson.

DCC

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"a lot of money" for the beautification of city's selected areas. But the development activities in other areas were also going on.

Abbas said that a massive programme to eradicate mosquito has also started.

The corporation earmarked Tk one crore for the programme.

The Mayor admitted the delay in starting the anti-mosquito drive saying that "it took time to select a harmless insecticide for the eight million people of the city."

Abbas urged the residents to keep their house premises clean to get an effective result of the anti-mosquito programme.

The city Mayor said that the corporation had also taken a programme to stop proliferation of unlicensed rickshaws and ordered the owners and pullers to have their licences.

"It is not possible to make the city rickshaw-free overnight as a large number of people are involved in it," Abbas said, adding that "but we are working on evolving a formula to replace rickshaw."

The Mayor said that since he took the charge of mayorship on May 19, 1991, he had finalised 1,752 big and small projects at a cost of over Tk 100 crore of which 860 projects had been completed.

In 1991-92 the corporation earned Tk 113 crore 77 lakh and spent Tk 96 crore and 21 lakh for the city dwellers.

In addition, four other donor-funded projects including environment development, low-cost latrine project, infrastructure development at Mirpur areas and Dhaka integrated flood control project were also continuing at a cost of Tk 195 crore.

Sector corps

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development will be achieved," the minister added.

He said government alone can not do better for people unless the attitude of 'ruler and ruled is vanished'.

Muzaffar Ahmed, president, ICMB in his speech urged the government to amend the Companies Act, constituted in 1913, for obtaining better performance in the industrial sector.

He said amendment of Companies Act and promulgation of Cost Audit Act are necessary to protect misuse and unnecessary wastage in industrial sector.

The Midnight File

West Bengal govt survives no-confidence

CALCUTTA, Dec 3: The opposition Congress-I sponsored no-confidence motion against the left front government was defeated in the West Bengal assembly today by 189 to 28 votes, reports PTI.

Blasts leave 65 hurt in Manchester

MANCHESTER (England), Dec 3: Two bombs exploded in central Manchester on Thursday morning, injuring 65 people, and bringing chaos to this northern industrial city, police and hospitals reported, says AP.

JU Syndicate members

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and be asked to pay a fine.

The Syndicate, reviewing the disciplinary body recommendations, according to official unconfirmed reports, decided to expel the students for a year and ask them to pay a penalty of Tk five thousand.

The eight other members of the Syndicate who went through the traumatic experience are: Prof Khondoker Mustahidur Rahman, Prof Md Imamuddin, Prof Amir Hossain Khan, Naim Sultan, Kowser Hossain, Registrar Mohammad Ali and Gias Kamal Chowdhury.

The two accused, JCD's JU unit organising Secretary Md Moazzem Hossain and Al Beruni Hall AGS S M Abu Yusuf, allegedly insulted Dr Golam Hossain, the Provost of the Hall, when the latter refused the students' demand that a university ambulance be made available for a patient student. Dr Hossain argued that the plea was not acceptable as per rules.

The students alleged that Dr Hossain threatened them with expulsion from the organisation using his influence. Hossain, a former leader of the Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal is known as a political thinker of the ruling BNP. He teaches at the Department of the Government and Politics.

Based on Dr Hossain's complaint, the university authority served the students with show-cause notices asking them why punitive measures would not be taken against them for verbally abusing the

OIC urges UN

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dal and a crime against humanity.

It warned Serbian leaders in Belgrade and Bosnia that they could be punished for war crimes under the Geneva Convention and called for the establishment of an international war crimes tribunal.

The ministers also said UN forces should be deployed on the Bosnian-Serbian border to prevent any assistance reaching the Serb forces.

Bosnia's beleaguered Muslims say a UN arms embargo is preventing them from defending themselves against the heavily armed Serbs. But opponents of easing the embargo say it would only worsen the bloodshed.

Vance, representing the United Nations, and Owen for the European Community, are to host an international ministerial level conference on Bosnia in Geneva on December 16.

The ministers 'also expressed their grave concern over the increasing tension in Kosovo, Sanjak and Macedonia, and warned that attacks on Muslims in these areas would have foreseeable consequences and could lead to a wider regional conflict.'

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7 Sarbaharamen with arms held

JESSORE, Dec 3: Police nabbed seven activists of outlawed Sarbahara Party and recovered three pipe-guns, five rounds of bullets, two kirich and a dagger from their possession on Wednesday from Jalakar village of Sadar thana, reports UNB.

The seven activists of the infamous terrorist group of the area 'Asad Bahini' went to the village to commit a dacoity.

The arrested are Faizur (25), Altar (34), Hafizur (32), Harun (20), Abu Talch (32), Moazzem (27) and Aslam (30).

Fountain

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Authoritative sources said that they had planned to expand the traffic-jam-prone street crossing near the five-star hotel but that more funds were used instead for beautification work before the Summit.

The fountain will be inaugurated ahead of the arrival of the officials from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bhutan and Nepal who will be in the capital Saturday.

The two-day Summit begins December 12.

Sale and Repurchase Prices of ICB Unit Certificates Refined

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