

WB to fund private sector infrastructure projects

The World Bank will develop a Private Sector Infrastructure Development Project (PSIDP) to encourage and support private initiative in the infrastructure development of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Under the proposed project, funds would be made available to the private sector to overcome their financial constraints for initiating infrastructure development, said Per Ljung, Chief of Energy and Project Finance Division of the World Bank, in Dhaka yesterday.

Making a presentation on the PSIDP at the FBCCI auditorium, Ljung indicated that the size of the project would be between 150 and 300 million US dollar.

He said the project would focus on developing appropriate long-term financing instruments, designed in a country's specific context and geared to specifically meet government's objectives of promoting critical infrastructure projects.

Referring to the sector-wise assessment, he said the power generating capacity needs to be enhanced by around 1,200 MW by the year 2000 to keep pace with present demand growth. Capacity addition and operational improvement are also required to sustain competitiveness of export related activity and to ease severe port congestion.

Ljung said the proposed project seeks to develop a modern and efficient system of infrastructure in Bangladesh by promoting significant participation of the private sector in investment, operation, ownership and maintenance of new infrastructure facilities.

He said the project would also promote a more favourable view of Bangladesh's investment attractiveness and build confidence in the investment community through the establishment of an open, professional project promotion, solicitation and evaluation process.

The project envisages the establishment of a Project Finance Facility (PFF) which, he said, would receive funds contributed by bilateral and multilateral institutions, and lend to private sector borrowers for developing and implementing infrastructure projects.

Besides financing projects, the PFF would also support government through capacity building for identifying and preparing key projects which are commercially viable and can be financed on a Built-Own-Operation (BOO) and Built-Own-Transfer (BOT) basis, the World Bank official said.

Assistance would be extended to provision of requisite expertise for evaluation and negotiation of specific transactions, he said.

Ljung said that one objective of the PSIDP identification mission was to explore how institutional arrangements could be best organised and supported.



US President Bill Clinton (R) and British Prime Minister John Major enjoy a walkabout after leaving Westminster Abbey yesterday at the beginning of his historic three-day visit to the United Kingdom and the Irish Republic. — AFP/UNB photo

Draft list of polling centres ready

The draft list of constituency-wise probable polling centres has already been prepared and it is now with the concerned district election offices, an Election Commission secretariat press release said here last night, reports BSS.

All concerned have been requested to check with the list and submit their written objections, opinions, recommendations, if any, to the concerned district election officers by December 7, the press release said.

The Election Commission has prepared the list of polling centres under certain principles, each centre with five rooms should be set up for, more or less, 2,000 voters on an average. In special cases, an additional room should be arranged for each 400 voters if their number goes beyond 2000.

All polling centres, which were used during the parliamentary election in 1991 and thereafter for local government elections, will remain if their structures have not been demolished.

The press release categorically said that all polling centres would be established in public buildings.

PM's tour

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tended, by among others, BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Salam Talukdar, Food and Agriculture Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Information and Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam and Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman.

Meanwhile, the PM's fourth letter to AL chief Sheikh Hasina was not sent until last night, although it was finalised.

when contacted last night, BNP's Office Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan, told The Daily Star "To the best of knowledge, the letter is not yet sent."

He had earlier carried two of the PM's letters to Hasina.

The train march, first by the Prime Minister, is seen by political watchers as the start of election campaign for her ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Begum Zia is scheduled to address crowds at 34 spots between Dhaka and Chittagong covering eight districts.

The Prime Minister is expected to reach Chittagong city at 6:15 am on Friday and address a public meeting at the Chittagong Outer Stadium at 2:00 pm.

She will be accompanied by some 50 ministers, ex-PMs and leaders of BNP, including Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed, Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui, Barjister Rafiqul Islam Mia and Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

A 38-member media team comprising journalists from newspapers, news agencies, radio and television will travel with the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister will return to the capital Friday evening by Bangladesh Biman.

Awaits approval

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unlikely. "After the PM's signature it would go to the President for promulgation of the Ordinance, it would then come back to us. But once the PM and the President sign it, the Ordinance becomes effective," the official said.

PM: '96 polls

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the 5th Parliament for strengthening the Election Commission.

"Now the Election Commission is completely independent and there is no scope for interference by any force or the government," she said. "The government will have no power, only the EC will enjoy and exercise all powers during the time of national election."

The Prime Minister told the people that only the government bearing "Sheaf of Paddy" can ensure economic emancipation, alleviate poverty and protect independence and sovereignty of the country.

The Prime Minister said the BNP government had realised all its election pledges given to the people during the 1991 general election. She listed various major development works which were implemented during the last five years.

She said overall development and improvement of the condition of commonman could be ensured if democracy existed in the country and urged all to support her party to maintain the hard-earned democratic process restored with colossal sacrifice.

Beating 2 to death Police yet to nab killers

Form Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 29: The failure of police to arrest the persons who were allegedly involved in the killing of two employees of a local industrialist has caused resentment among the residents of the Tolla area.

Amid allegations of gross negligence of duty, Sub-Inspector Nazrul Islam Palwan of Fatullah thana was suspended yesterday. The OC of the thana, when contacted, said the action was an internal matter of the police and refuse to give any details.

Family sources of the industrialist alleged that the industrialist was being pressured by certain quarters to withdraw the case registered in connection with the alleged murders.

6 get life-term in Magura

MAGURA, Nov 29: Six people were awarded life imprisonment in a sensational double-murder case, court sources said today, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution story, the convicted people — Sharafat, Liakat, Razzak, Shawkat, Rezaul and Moazzem — chopped to death two brothers Asaduzzaman and Abdul Hannan, at Andolbaria village in Sadar thana on March 1, 1994.

After the double murder, a case was filed with the police against 17 people. After investigating the case police submitted the charge sheet against them.

The District and Sessions Judge Sakhawat Hossain, after examining the witnesses and records, delivered the verdict on November 21.

Freedom fighters' ultimatum to post-election govt

By Staff Correspondent

The Freedom Fighters, in a declaration from a grand rally yesterday, urged the post-election government to meet their charter of demands by November next year or the freedom fighters would go for a mass fast unto death from December 16, 1996.

The demands include, compulsory inclusion of the history of Liberation in the syllabus of schools, colleges and universities, repealing the age-factor in cases of the Freedom Fighters, inclusion of the words 'Bir Muktiyoddha' in the Constitution and making a law on 'Protection and Privilege Act' for the Freedom Fighters.

Mugger

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and rushed them to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Police recovered a homemade revolver, five bullets and a dagger from the possessions of Shaju and Kamal.

A case has been filed with Lalbagh thana.

Hasina

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Chairman of the central command council of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad Principal Abdul Chowdhury, who chaired the rally, appealed the freedom fighters to unite under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina as, he recalled, they had done during the Liberation War under the leadership of her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Hasina came down heavily on the ruling BNP for "not allowing the freedom fighters to stage a rally" and accused it of "trying to create a rift among the freedom fighters."

"Come, let's fight once again to regain our lost pride and spirit of independence," Hasina appealed to the freedom fighters.

The rally was also addressed by, among others, AL leaders Abdur Razzak and Mofazzal Hussain Chowdhury Maya, Left Democratic Front (LDF) leader Kazi Aref Ahmed, Ganotantri Party leader Md Afzal, Col. (ret'd) Abu Osman Chowdhury and former president of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad Abdul Matin Chowdhury.

Abdur Razzak was critical of the BNP government's "silence over the recent 'push-in' by Pakistan" and its 'failure' to send back the stranded Pakistanis.

Later, the freedom fighters brought out a procession protesting the 'bomb attack on the rally'.

Passenger bus looted in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 29: A group of armed dacoits looted cash and valuable goods this afternoon from the passengers of a Teknaf-bound bus at Panerchhara, about 13 km from here, police said, reports BSS.

According to police and some passengers, when the bus from Cox's Bazar reached Panerchhara, suddenly eight to ten dacoits, who had boarded the bus in the disguise of passengers, forced the driver to stop the bus at gun point.

The dacoits then started looting and left the bus after a while. Immediately after the incident, the dacoits looted two other autorickshaws and one passenger microbus which were stranded during the dacoity.

Sanitation Week begins today

The National Sanitation Week begins in the country today, reports UNB.

"Sanitary latrine for every family by the year 2000" is the slogan of the week to be observed in the country for the second time.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday issued separate messages on the occasion.

LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar will inaugurate the National Sanitation Week-95 at Shilpakala Academy today at 11 am.

Another ferry clogged up in Jamuna

MANIKGANJ, Nov 29: Another ferry was clogged up for about three hours at a char in the midstream of the Jamuna today, reports UNB.

BIWTC sources said the Nagarbari bound ferry Shah Ali with 11 trucks and five buses was stuck up at the char land at about 12:15 pm creating traffic jam on both sides of the Dhaka-Aricha road.

Crisis will end if fair elections guaranteed: JP

By Staff Correspondent

The Secretary General of the Jatiya Party (JP) Anwar Hossain Manju, said yesterday that the present political stalemate could be brought to an end only if the transparency of election process could be guaranteed through an understanding among the contesting parties.

The tricks of manipulating the election process are not unknown to the opposition parties as they also conducted elections when they were in power, he said, while talking to The Daily Star, regarding a possible settlement of the present political impasse. Time has come to change the system, he added.

JP, according to him, will follow its anti-government agitation programme until a negotiated stalemate was reached on the issue of holding free and fair elections.

Bangabazar traders

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ous outsiders continued to gather there till yesterday evening to see the devastation.

"It was the longest fire-fight in the city in recent times," said Habibur Rahman Chowdhury, Director Operation and Maintenance of the Fire Service and Civil Defence.

After losing their life's labour traders of Bangabazar and three adjoining markets were also apprehensive of losing clientele in the once attractive and busy market.

"Whatever is the situation now, we want to start our business immediately even if we have to sit on this debris. In no way we can afford to miss the season's trading," said Mozammel Haque Moza, President, Gulistan Hawkers' Market Association.

A devastating fire, the biggest in the city in the recent times, destroyed the whole area of Bangabazar, country's largest clothing market Monday morning.

However, no report of death was reported till last night.

"We have to open our shop somehow ... otherwise, how will we run our family," said Anwar, 25, who had started a small business in Gulistan about ten years back.

Another middle-aged trader was seen hawking on the footpath to sell some trousers which he saved from Monday's fire.

The associations of the four markets have received some corrugated tin sheets as assistance from the government for constructing temporary sheds, according to sources.

Meanwhile, the five-member probe body formed by the Fire Service and Civil Defence yesterday started investigating the incident. Some experts have expressed the fear that the markets, if raised in the way it was done earlier, may be vulnerable to such fire incidents. The government should intervene so that the markets are built with fire-safety measures, they said.

Amin Bazar, Savar, Nayarhat smugglers' transit point

MANIKGANJ, Nov 29: Amin Bazar, Savar Bazar and Nayarhat areas on Dhaka-Aricha highway have become transit points for the smugglers, reports UNB.

Local people said, only from the Amin Bazar point smuggled goods worth about Tk 50 crore are being transported to other areas every month.

Local sources said, Indian smuggled goods including saree, blade, bicycle and other spare parts, cosmetics, medicine, glass and steel crockeries, electric goods, toy, match box, ball point pen, yarn, pesticide, sugar, salt, cattlehead and different kinds of drugs are being transported through these points daily.

Besides, at least 10 barges coming from Chittagong carrying goods including stone, cement, sand, fertilizer and wood reach at the Amin Bazar ghat through the river Turag. A huge quantity of smuggled foreign cigarettes, wine, heroin, crockeries, cosmetics etc are also being brought here by the same barges.

Local people alleged that the smugglers have a strong and well-organised network and they regularly give a monthly toll amounting Tk 20 lakh to the law enforcing agencies for smooth and safe transportation of the smuggled goods. So nobody dares to say anything against the smugglers, they added.

The Midnight File

OIC to supply military aid to Bosnia

TEHRAN, Nov 29: Members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) pledged here today to supply military aid to Bosnia to help Muslims defend themselves in case of future Serb or Croat aggression. The decision was announced at the end of a two-day conference of the OIC's 'aid mobilisation group (AMG)' on Bosnia which, according to participants, centred on military assistance, reports AFP.

Manzur Murder Case Hearing adjourned till January 2

The hearing of Manzur Murder Case in the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka was adjourned yesterday for five weeks, reports BSS.

The court adjourned the hearing as the principal accused in the case former president H M Ershad, could not be moved out-of-the jail on medical ground. Ershad has been suffering from viral hepatitis since early this month.

Maj Gen (ret'd) M A Latif, Col (ret'd) Mostafa Kamaluddin, Lt Col (ret'd) Shamsur Rahman and Maj (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Haq, all co-accused in this case, were brought in from the Dhaka Central Jail and remained in the dock for an hour when prosecution and defence counsels raised different issues.

Judge Salam after hearing both the sides fixed January 2, 1996 for production of the accused persons and for hearing and framing of the case.

Earlier the judge took cognizance of the case against persons despite objection of Ershad's counsel.

Yusuf Hossain Humayun earlier pointed out that it would not be proper to take cognizance in the absence of the principal accused particularly in view of the High Court's opinion.

Public prosecutor Abdur Razzaque Khan at the outset said he had no objection to allow inspection of documents and statement, by counsels of the accused persons as ordered by the High Court.

CU Senate polls postponed

CHITTAGONG, Nov 29: The election of the teachers representatives to the Senate of Chittagong University scheduled to be held tomorrow has been postponed following a prohibitory order by the third sub-judge court to Chittagong, a university press release said here tonight, reports BSS.

Policeman's body

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in the neck and other parts of the body were found, hospital sources said.

The sources said that the killing could have been a sequel to an extra-marital affair of All's wife Rabeya. Uttara police was interrogating Rabeya and Rauf last night.

EC to wait till ordn

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held according to the constitutional provisions, adding, the elections would therefore, take place before February 22 — exactly within 90 days after the dissolution of Parliament.

"We will fix the election date before the Ramadan starts. This will not only permit us to finish the task before the month of sacrifice but also leave us with some time before the expiry of the February 22 constitutional deadline," he said.

Sadeque made it clear that whatever the political situation of the country was, the EC would abide by the constitutional provisions and hold the polls in time.

At the time of the interview, Election Commissioner Justice M A Jalil was also present.

"We would have loved to allow a month for filing the nominations but due to time constraint, nine days would be given to the candidates for filing the nomination papers," said the CEC.

As soon as the schedules are announced, we will go for the printing of ballot papers which would take at least a month, he added.

Responding to a question, the CEC said his office had definitely suffered setbacks due to the current political impasse. "Without the fullest cooperation of the political parties and the people, it becomes very difficult to conduct an election," he said.

He found the Opposition stand on the EC 'enigmatic' and said that he could not understand why this happened when every complaint of the opposition parties had been attended to.

"We changed the enumerators when they objected, as a matter of fact they had 71 complaints which were all attended to by the EC," he said.

The CEC pointed out that if anyone had been left out from the voters' list, he or she may get registered as a voter until almost the day of the election.

Strict measures have been taken to conduct a free and fair election and the EC would maintain its transparency at any cost, he said.

ঢাকা ওয়াসা বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পানির অপচয় বন্ধ করুন।। ম্যানহোলের ঢাকনা চুরি রোধ করুন

পানি সরবরাহের উৎস কেঙ্গে পানি সর্বদাই বিস্তৃত ও নিরাপদ। তবে সরবরাহ নেট ওয়ার্ক সার্ভিস লাইনে ছিদ্র থাকা, ময়লা ডেন বা ম্যানহোলের পিট অথবা আবর্জনাপূর্ণ প্যাসেজ দিয়ে বৈধ/অবৈধ সংযোগ নেয়ার কারণে পানি দূষিত হতে পারে। বাড়ির জলাধারসমূহ ঢাকনাবিহীন ও অপরিষ্কার থাকলেও পানি দূষিত হতে পারে। ওয়াসার পুরাতন জীর্ণ পাইপগুলো পুনর্বাসনের কাজ দ্রুত এগিয়ে যাচ্ছে।

এমতাবস্থায় বিস্তৃত পানির নিষ্কৃত্যর জন্য সার্ভিস সংযোগ পরিষ্কার রাখা এবং বাড়ির জলাধারসমূহ নিয়মিত পরিষ্কার রাখার জন্য গ্রাহকস্বার্থার্থকে অনুরোধ জানানো হল। অতিরিক্ত সতর্কতা হিসেবে পানি ফুটিয়ে পান করার জন্যও অনুরোধ জানানো হল।

ওয়াসা-সেভার ১০৬/৯৫
D-1175

ওয়াসা ঢাকা ওয়াসা

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক -এর টেলিফোন নম্বর পরিবর্তন

বাংলাদেশ তার ও টেলিফোন বোর্ডের বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুযায়ী অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের প্রধান কার্যালয়ের পিএবিএক্সসহ উর্ধ্বতন কর্মকর্তাদের টেলিফোন নম্বর পরিবর্তন হয়েছে। অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের গ্রাহক ও ওভানুধ্যায়ীদের জ্ঞাতার্থে পিএবিএক্স ও ফ্যাক্সনম্বর নীচে দেয়া হল:

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প্রধান কার্যালয় (ডবল নং-১)	২৪৬১৬০-৬৯	৯৫৬৬১৬০-৬৯
	২৪৬১৫৩-৫৪	৯৫৬৬১৫৩-৫৪
	২৪৬০৭৪-৭৫	৯৫৬৬০৭৪-৭৫
প্রধান কার্যালয় (ডবল নং-২)	২৫৫১৭৯-৮০	৯৫৫৫১৭৯-৮০
ফ্যাক্স নম্বর :	৮৮০-২-৮৬৭৬৪০	৮৮০-২-৯৫৬৬৬২
	৮৮০-২-৮৬৭৬৪৫	৮৮০-২-৯৫৬৬৬৮

দেশ ও জাতির সেবায় প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ একটি ব্যাংক।