

# WB to give \$167m more for five projects

The World Bank has approved a fund of 167.7 million US dollar to supplement five ongoing Bank-assisted projects for repairing flood-damaged infrastructure and equipment in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The funds are part of a broader assistance programme to respond to the urgent needs of Bangladesh in the aftermath of the worst floods in the nation's living memory in August-September 1998, said a World Bank press release.

The projects to be supported by the supplementary funds are: Third Inland Water Transport Project, River Bank Protection Project; the Second Rural Roads and Markets Project, Coastal Embankment Project and the Second Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance Project.

These projects are for repairing the damaged highways, rural roads, pontoons, jetties and river terminals, embankments and market places.

The latest allocation is in addition to approximately 38 million US dollar that has been made available by restructuring the previously-approved Fifth Health and Population Project, Primary Education Development Project, and Fourth Dhaka Water and Sanitation Project to finance the repair work of damaged healthcare facilities, schools, water supply, and sewerage.

"By providing supplemented funds for rehabilitation, the Bank's assistance will reduce the government's need to cut back its development programme," said World Bank Country Director Frederick Temple.

The cost of such rehabilitation is high and was not anticipated in the budget. The objective of the Bank's assistance is

## Ershad blames BNP but won't cause 'disunity'

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party chief H M Ershad has blamed BNP for acting against the interests of the four-party opposition alliance. He, however, assured that his party would never cause disunity in the alliance.

The former president was speaking at a rally in front of the party's Kalabagan office yesterday afternoon before leading a march of the JP MPs loyal to him. The march was organised simultaneously with three other alliance partners including BNP in demand for resignation of the "failed" Awami League government.

Prior to the march, JP secretary general Nazirul Rahman Manju announced a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the Chittagong division on May 27, the day Shantu Larma is due to take over as chairman of the CHT Regional Council. The day would be observed as "black day," he said.

Ershad claimed that 19 of the 33 MPs took part in yesterday's march which was also joined by some central leaders and hundreds of workers of the party. A JP press release last night named the 19 MPs. Besides two other MPs — G M Quader and Shahadat Hossain — sent fax messages regretting their absence due to their stay outside Dhaka, the release added.

The 19 JP lawmakers are: H M Ershad, Roushan Ershad, T M Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury, N K Alam Chowdhury, Rabeya Bhuiyan, Sabita Mahmud, Rustam Ali Faraj, Asadur Rahman, M A Mukit Khan, Nasiruddin Chowdhury, Joyal Abedin Sarkar, Karimuddin Barashar, Lutfar Rahman, Mofijur Rahman, Moazzam Haq Lulu, Abdul Rashid Sarkar, Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad, Abu Lais Mubin Chowdhury and Wahiduzzaman Badsha.

Ershad walked all the way with the JP procession from Kalabagan to the Jatiya Press Club, parading Mirpur Road, Panthapath, Mymensingh Road and Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. However, some other MPs including Roushan Ershad, Rabeya Bhuiyan and Sabita Mahmud took motor ride from Panthapath to the High Court area.

## HC verdict

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Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Doha Securities and Shimpukur Holdings.

The Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge had earlier rejected plea from the three companies that the cases be transferred from the court of Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge to the court of Mia Mohammad Sharif, the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge, who had earlier heard the cases as First Additional Sessions Judge of Dhaka District.

The lawyers of the three companies also argued that there was no scope for distribution of the cases as they were transferred automatically by application of law.

All the cases, excepting these three, were transferred to the judge when he was transferred to the metro court, said Sirajul Huq who appeared for the three companies.

Appearing as the Securities and Exchange lawyer, Dr M Zahid then pointed out that the Metro Court did not consist of several judges but one single judge to whom the cases were transferred.

He said that the other judges are additional judges whose jurisdictions are derived from two sources — one by special government order and the second from the Sessions Judge. "So when a notification says that the cases will be transferred to the Metro Court, it means to the Sessions Judge who sits in that court."

Appearing for the state, Additional Attorney General Mahbub-e-Alam said that prayers by the accused companies were contradictory.

He said that at one point they are asking for transfer of the cases to the court of Mia Mohammad Sharif on the other hand they are saying that the transfer itself to metro court was illegal.

The High Court Bench comprising of Justice Golam Rabban and Md Latifur Rahman, after hearing both sides fixed June 8 for judgement.

## Military Instt of Science & Tech to be set up in Savar

Disappointed by what he said BNP's recent negotiation with the government on lifting a ban on a road march through the Bangabandhu Bridge recently, Ershad told the pre-march rally that they agreed to a BNP proposal for a one-day march, following the government move.

"But later BNP alone settled the issue with the government without consulting the JP. Dis-satisfied by BNP's behaviour, we then asked the party at a liaison committee meeting as to why should we go for a united movement if BNP does not honour our side and if it ignores us?"

However, Ershad said, he allowed the JP nominees to discuss the matter in the liaison committee and agreed to participate in yesterday's march of the opposition MPs. "We did so for the sake of continued unity, not bowing to any pressure, or accepting any condition. We also did not want to be the cause of disunity."

"We believe in unity but not at the cost of JP's existence. Launching movement from a common platform needs approval of the JP council," he said denying press reports that he did not press for a summit of the four top opposition leaders.

The former military dictator also came down heavily on a section of newspapers for publishing "untrue" reports about his party. In this regard, he named the daily 'Bangabazar Patrika' and made oblique reference to the daily Ittefaq, owned by communications minister Anwar Hossain Manju who pioneered the JP split.

He called the JP MPs who had deserted him as " betrayers" and said their departure would not stop JP's forward march. Rather, he hoped that his party would bag more votes in the areas of those MPs in the next elections.

The deposed president found the Jatiya Sangsad "ineffective" as the opposition members were not allowed to speak there. He expressed his firm determination to continue street agitation until the fall of the government.

Concluding the march in front of the Press Club, Ershad hoped the opposition lawmakers' street protests would expedite the fall of the government.

## CEC to attend workshop in Mexico

By Staff Correspondent  
Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena leaves Dhaka for Mexico today to attend an international workshop on elections. He is scheduled to return by June 17.

The workshop titled 'Electoral Management Bodies as Institutions of Governance' will be held in Mexico City from May 26 to 29.

Some 40 participants from 23 countries will attend the four-day workshop, which will be spreading over five sessions. Abu Hena is scheduled to chair a session on 'The Role of the Election Management Bodies in Supporting Voters Registration: Lessons Learnt and Challenges.'

Other Asian countries to attend the workshop are India, Pakistan, the Philippines and South Korea.

From Mexico, Hena will go to the United States to see his children. "I will spend a few days with my children there and return home by June 17," the CEC told The Daily Star yesterday.

## Injured BCL activist dies at CMCH

From CU Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, May 24: A Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist who received bullet injury on May 20 at the Shah-Amanat hall succumbed to his injuries at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) this morning.

The namaj-e-janaza of Mohammad Saiful Islam, a master's student of Statistics Department was held at the Anarkali Mosque this afternoon. Later his body was sent to his village home at Chakaria in Cox's Bazar.

Meanwhile, Shibir observed third day of its siege programme at CU today.

Robert C US Geological Survey, a prestigious organisation

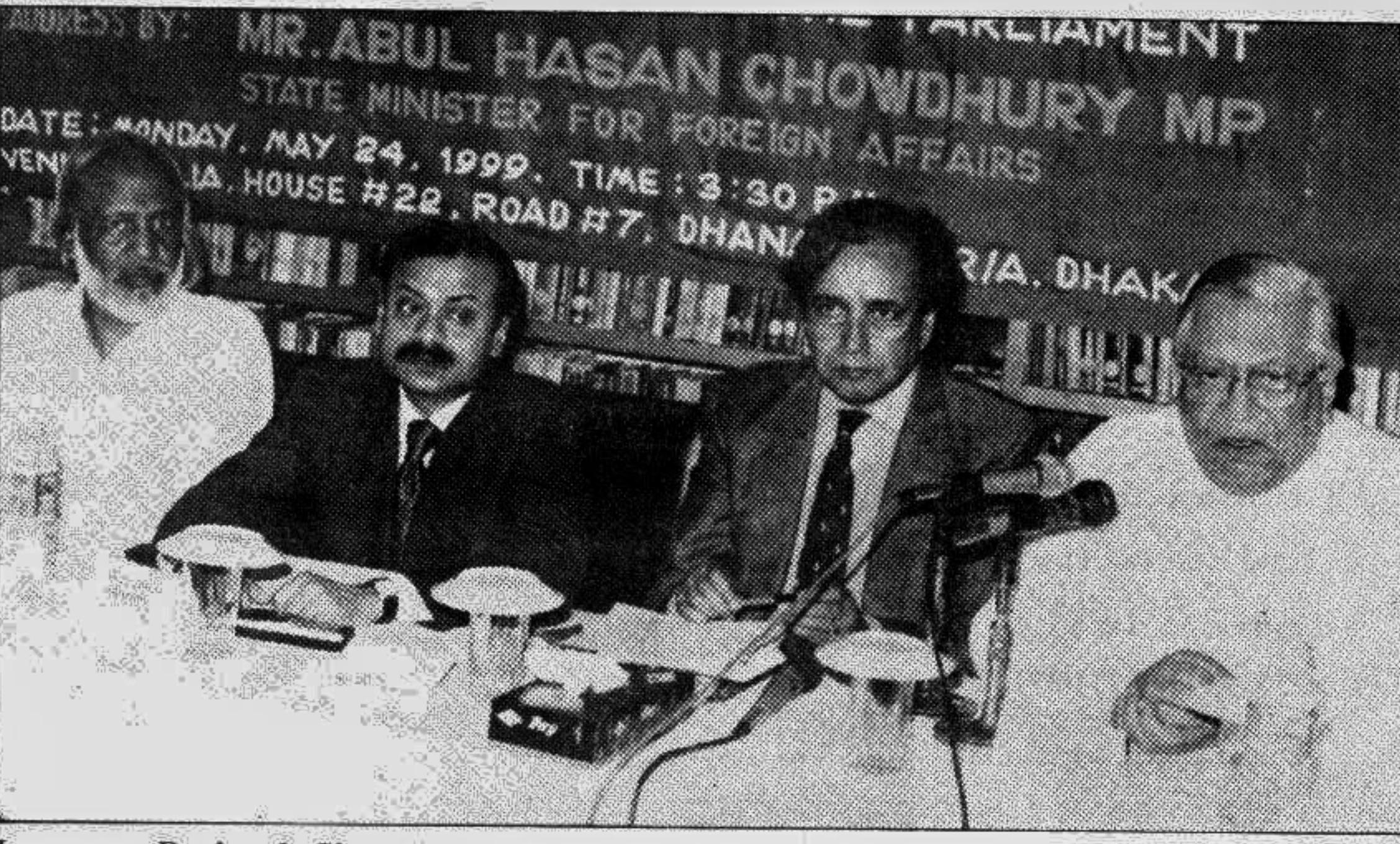
to assist the government in restoring key infrastructure and thereby enable restoration of normal levels of economic and social activities," he added.

The Bank has been following a three-part strategy to help Bangladesh with its flood recovery effort.

Last November, the Bank provided 200 million US dollar in quick disbursing assistance to help maintain macroeconomic stability in the short-term through the emergency flood rehabilitation project.

The World Bank has made use of supplemental credits and funds were freed up through restructuring of existing credits to repair damaged infrastructure.

The third part of the Bank's response focuses on long-term strengthening of the country's capacity for disaster preparedness and management.



Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad, speaking at a session on Interaction Between Probationer Diplomats of Indian Foreign Service and Bangladesh — 1998 Batch' at Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) yesterday. Also seen in the picture from left are Dr Moyer Khan, MP, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Walur Rahman, Director of BILIA. —Star photo

## Railway earning up

Following partial reforms, Bangladesh Railway has posted an increased earning of Tk 22 crore in revenue during the last 10 months of the current financial year, crossing targets for the period, reports UNB.

Its passenger revenue earnings during the July 1998-April 1999 period stood at Tk 114 crore, up from last year's income of Tk 112 crore.

The trend indicates a 21 per cent growth, exceeding the target growth of 12 per cent, according to a Railway news release issued yesterday.

This attainment was possible despite 24 per cent loss of passenger traffic in the West Zone of the Railway due to opening of the Bangabandhu Bridge," it said.

Rail freight revenue also grew 18 per cent to Tk 113 crore

as against Tk 96 crore of the corresponding period of last year.

During the first 10 months the freight volume exceeded 3 million tons which is equal to last year's total.

Improving the quality of service, giving more emphasis on long-hauled inter-city trains, associating private sectors for providing on-board services and leasing out the commercial functions of nearly 12 per cent of non-core passenger trains to private sector are the reasons for which the passenger revenue saw an upward trend.

Rise in the freight volume and freight revenue is attributed to efficient handling of cargo, particularly food imports.

## A view from the Gully

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down the Aussie chariot. Steve and Bevan started consolidating their position and the drama between Steve Waugh and Shoaib Akhtar began. Umpire Rudy Koertzen of South Africa pointed fingers at Shoaib and Akram hastened to cool down the speed merchant. The contest that ensued between Shoaib and Steve Waugh could be the plot for a real thriller. The net result was that Shoaib was deprived by Koertzen of a plumb 'lbw' decision against Steve and Azhar suffered at the hands of the other Umpire from England Peter Willey, as Bevan gave an inside edge to Moin that was turned down. Both these decisions were clear indications of the 'Umpires' annoyance with the bowlers which is highly regrettable. Even the partisan Australian commentators disagreed with the Umpires' decisions.

Now back to the game. Steve Waugh's decision to send the opponents in was normal because he had the strength in his batting, reinforced by Damien Martin and Paul Reiffel, to chase a moderate score and at the rate the Pakistanis lost their first three wickets the job appeared easy. But one can hardly think that one had seen all in cricket. Razzaq and Inzamam, out of nick so far, kept the Aussie bowling at bay.

In the process they slowly stabilised the innings but not before Inzamam, not the best of runner in the world, gave creeps to the Pakistani supporters. Youhana, who was going great guns fell short of the crease and Inzamam finally ran the 20-yard in shortest possible time in vain. The last ten overs were extremely fruitful for Pakistan as they raced to 275 for 8 from 167 for 4 an addition of solid 108 runs that made all the difference at end of the day. Barling Fleming all others came for a bit of slick from the desperate.

Inspite of such provocations the Pakistani's got the right breakthrough at the right time and secured their position in the 'Super Six'.

It was only fair that Sachin Tendulkar should return with a bang. Whatever may be the opposition it is always difficult to hammer out a century, particularly in a limited overs match. Tendulkar did that in great style and force and in the process kept India's hopes for a 'Super Six' berth alive. He dedicated his first ever World Cup to his late father Ramesh Tendulkar — an able son indeed. Rahul Dravid also scored a century, his first in World Cup also and India had a facile win but not before the Kenyans crossed the 200 mark for the third time in the tournament.

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