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Fax: (88-02) 8810788 E-mail: advanced@dhaka.agni.com**Metropolitan****Loan recovery rate in Ashrayan project 98 per cent**

The landmark Ashrayan project for the homeless has set a unique example of micro-credit programme with a loan recovery rate of 98 per cent, a senior official of Ashrayan Bastobayan Sangstha (ABAS) told BSS yesterday.

The officials said ABAS so far allocated Taka 12.48.78.000.00 for distribution as credit among the rehabilitated families.

Till now construction of 1904 barrack houses has been completed and 19,040 families rehabilitated under the project, they said adding besides this, 1,289 barrack houses are now under construction to provide accommodation to 12,890 families.

Of the total allocated money, Taka 4.35 crore has already been disbursed through 276 registered cooperative societies to the borrowers with 8 per cent service charge.

The ABAS officials termed the rate of loan recovery from the borrowers as excellent and said Taka 4.26.30.000 has been recovered so far which is 98 per cent of the amount disbursed.

According to the officials, the credit was provided to the borrowers after imparting them training on different trades and conducting feasibility study by the cooperative department.

Taka 1.66.88.681.00 has been spent for imparting training to 31,398 persons of 14,890 rehabilitated families.

Some 28,364 beneficiaries have been enlisted as cooperative society members, of them 13,948 are male and 14,416 are female.

The project-Ashrayan, the brainchild of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was launched immediately after devastating cyclone on 19 May 1997, to

provide homeless and landless families with homesteads and basic facilities on khas land.

A senior ABAS official said Ashrayan project was launched not only to provide shelter to the borrowers, but also to ensure sustainable development.

Nearly Taka 50,000 will be spent for each family for housing and socio-economic development activities, he said.

ABAS sources said for each barrack house, there is one tube well and two blocks of latrine bathroom (one for male and one for female). Each family is being provided with one unit of barrack house comprising 225-sq ft floor area. The estimated cost for a barrack house is Taka 3.66.800.

Journalist dead

BANDARBAN, Aug 11: Bandarban district correspondent of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) MA Hashem died of cancer at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Monday night, reports UNB.

He left behind his wife, five daughters, one son and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

Hashem, worked as a journalist for two decades, wrote a number of books on environment development, forest and the hill district.

President visits Mahbubur Rahman's Uttara residence

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed visited the residence of former Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank late Mahbubur Rahman Khan at Uttara yesterday, reports UNB.

He died of cardiac arrest Thursday.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed stayed there for some time and consoled the members of the bereaved family.

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New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215**Re-Tender Notice**

1 Sealed tenders are invited in local currency from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/suppliers/indentors (enlisted firm & firm) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh "Army".

Sl No	Nomenclature	Date of selling		Date of opening	Currency	Tender No
		From	To			
a	Tractor complete with std tools accessories including 5% fast and slow moving spare parts. (Qty-04).	20-8-2000	10-9-2000	11-9-2000	Local	1040/P-7
b	Lanterns electric traffic No. 2 complete. (Qty-1650).	20-8-2000	3-9-2000	4-9-2000	Local	980/P-7

2 Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (not refundable) during office hours between 0800 hours and 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderers (if present).

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