

# IDA to provide \$40m for arsenic mitigation

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh will receive 40 million US dollars from International Development Agency (IDA), a World Bank Group member, for arsenic mitigation under a public health project to be undertaken next year.

The appraisal date of the Arsenic Public Health Project (APHP), which will cost 45 million dollars, has been fixed on March 25 next year when the Bank is due to approve the project. The fund comes in the form of lending, IDA officials said.

The objective of the APHP is to assist Bangladesh in reducing the incidence and prevalence of diseases caused by arsenic contamination of drinking water and strengthen national capacity to address public health aspects of arsenic in the long term, including the capacity for surveillance monitoring and evaluation.

The IDA sources said the project would seek to prevent new cases of arsenicosis and treat those already affected. The strategies included behaviour change communication to educate the general people about arsenic

contamination of drinking water, its health effects, means to avoid exposure to the disease and the facts about realistic treatment options.

The project also aims at enhancing health sector capacity for the surveillance, prevention diagnosis and treatment of arsenic-related diseases along with counselling of patients, promotion of research on prevalence, incidence and treatment to enable sound public health planning and intervention and development of patient management tools.

The IDA officials said the strategies would be developed into four project components while the project would be managed as an integral part of the Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP), and will complement arsenic mitigation activities within the IDA-financed Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project (BAMWSP).

The project, however, will not include water testing or provision of drinking water alternatives, as these activities are being overseen by Ministry of Local Government and covered under BAMWSP and

numerous local NGO programmes.

Bangladesh is said to be facing what has been described as "the largest mass poisoning of a population in history" because more than 25 million people are estimated to be drinking water that contains hazardous levels of arsenic.

"Without intervention, approximately 250,000 individuals may eventually develop cancer from the exposure and many more may develop diabetes, neurological problems, debilitating skin lesions, and other health conditions," an IDA document said.

## JETRO to help BEPZA attract Japanese investors

UNB, Dhaka

Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) will assist Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) in attracting more Japanese investors.

An agreement to this effect was reached when the outgoing Bangladesh Representative of JETRO Daisuke Arai made a farewell call on the Executive Chairman of BEPZA Brig General (Retd) M Mozibur Rahman here yesterday.

Sotaro Nishikawa, the new Bangladesh representative of JETRO accompanied him.

Expressing happiness over the performance of BEPZA, Arai said going back home he would act as an ambassador of BEPZA with a view to promoting this organisation.

He also said the world famous zipper manufacturing company YKK (BD) could be a model for BEPZA in inviting Japanese investment.

Nishikawa assured BEPZA of his fullest cooperation to bring more Japanese investment in the EPZs of Bangladesh, said a press release.

## SM Sultan's anniversary of birth observed

BSS, Narail

Information Minister Tariqul Islam said here yesterday despite his worldwide exposure and international image late S M Sultan "is ours" as he returned to his birthplace in search of the roots.

"He belongs to the soil and people of this country," the minister told a function here organised to mark the artist's 78th birth anniversary at Sultan Mancha here.

Sultan loved his birthplace and that is why returned to Narail, in search of his roots, the minister said.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman, Deputy Minister for Education Abdus Salam Pintu, Dhirendranath Saha, noted artist Rafiqun Nabi and Subir Chowdhury addressed the function.

Tariqul said the government, during its previous term, honoured the artist with 'Ekushey Padak' in 1995. This time we will complete the 'Sultan Memorial Complex' here at a cost of Tk 1.75 crore.

Selima Rahman said Sultan was a struggling artist. His works portrays the pictures of the working people.

The Cultural Affairs Ministry would undertake measures for completion of the Memorial Complex, she said.



The students of Armenitola Govt. High School staged a demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding punishment to the killers of Rubaiyet Ahmed Bappi.

# Flood situation improves as water level falls

BSS, Dhaka

Except for three, rivers of the four major basins have recorded further fall at all points leading to more improvement in the overall flood situation of the country.

According to the daily bulletin of Flood Information Centre in the city yesterday, the continuous recession of water levels in most of the rivers of Brahmaputra and Ganges basins is indicating further improvement of the flood situa-

## City University approved

Government has approved the City University in accordance with the Private University Act 1992 and the modified act 1998, says a press release.

Initially, the university will introduce the Graduate and Post Graduate degree in Business Administration and Computer Science and Engineering.

Later courses in Social Science, Arts, Engineering, Law and Medical Science will be introduced in the University.

The University will conduct its academic activities on 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> floor of Bulu Ocean Tower at 40, Kemal Ataturk Avenue in the city. Subsequently, the University will be shifted to its original campus at Kaliakoi.

## Dutch envoy, CPA acting president hold discussion

BSS, Cg

Dutch Ambassador to Bangladesh J.L. Ijzermans yesterday discussed the port related issues with Acting Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority A M M Shahadat Hossain.

During the meeting, the ambassador enquired about the on-going and future development projects of the Chittagong port including the present condition of the navigability of the port channel.

Senior officials of the CPA including Chief Planning Hadi Hossain Babul, Director (Admin) A N M Momin, Director (Security) Lt Col Sarwar Shahid and Terminal Manager Ahsanul Kabir were present at the meeting.

tion in the northern and north-western districts.

With fall of the Meghna at Bhairab Bazar, the situation is likely to further improve in Brahmanbaria, Kishoreganj and Narsingdi districts. Although the Shitalakkhya marked a slight rise, the situation in Narayanganj district will improve further.

The Turag at Mirpur, Tongi Khal at Tongi and the Buriganga in Dhaka registered further fall, leading to more improvement of the flood situation around the capital city. It is also likely to improve in Sylhet and Moulvibazar districts, the bulletin said.

Meteorologists described the monsoon as fairly active as light to moderate rain at many places with heavy fall at one or two places recorded over the Brahmaputra basin during the last 24 hours (9-9 am yesterday).

Besides, light to moderate rain fall at most places over the Ganges, and the Meghna basins and light to moderate rainfall at all places over the South Eastern Hill basin were also recorded during the period.

Significant rainfall was recorded 63.2 mm at Bogra, 42.7 mm at Naogaon, 37.0 mm at Kanaighat, 34.5 mm at Gaibandha, 34.0 mm at Sheola, 31.6 mm at Kushtia and 25.0 mm at Manu Railway Bridge during the period.

According to the general river condition, the Brahmaputra-Jamuna continued to fall at all points and the Padma also observed further fall at all points except at Bhagyakul. Rivers in the Meghna basin registered fall at all points except the Surma at Sylhet and the Someswari at Durgapur. Rivers in the South Eastern Hill basin recorded both rise and fall.

The Shitalakkhya at Narayanganj, Turag at Mirpur, Padma at Bhagyakul, Surma at Kanaighat, Kushiara at Amalshid and Sheola and the Meghna at Bhairabazar are flowing above their respective danger levels, the bulletins said.

Out of total 46 monitoring stations, 7 points recorded rise and 35 points fall and 1 (one) point remained steady. Besides 7 points are flowing above danger levels, during the last 24 hours ending at 6-00 am yesterday.



## Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Barisal divisions with moderately heavy falls at places today.

Day temperature will remain unchanged over the country, Met office said.

Country's highest temperature 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest 24.6 degree Celsius at Feni yesterday.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:35 pm today and rises at 5:32 am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.0	26.3	82	83
Chittagong	30.8	25.3	81	80
Rajshahi	34.8	27.4	94	--
Khulna	33.7	27.5	83	--
Barisal	32.5	27.0	80	81
Sylhet	33.3	26.5	88	92
Cox's Bazar	32.5	26.2	--	88



A health worker administers polio vaccine to a child in the city on the Sub-National Immunisation Day yesterday.

**Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority**  
**Corrigendum-3**  
**To Invitation for Bids**  
**Date: 08-08-2002**

The invitation for international bids for design-build turnkey contract for construction of the Pagla Water Treatment Plant published in The Dainik Janakantha on 22.3.2002, The Bangladesh Observer and The Independent on 23.3.2002 and The Daily Star on 28.3.2002 has been amended as follows:

a) The last paragraph of Clause 7, Page No. II-8, Section-II, instruction to bidders of the bidding document reading "The bidder shall have to provide a certificate authenticated by the Chinese Embassy, Dhaka to the effect that the bidder is capable to arrange the requisite fund under Chinese credit to execute the project in its entirety" is hereby deleted.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

**Dr. Khondaker Azharul Haq**  
 Managing Director  
 Dhaka WASA

GD-683

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Privatization Commission**  
 Jiban Bima Tower (14<sup>th</sup> Floor)  
 10, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000

Tender Notice No. 04/2002 Date: 07/08/2002

**Amendment of International Tender Notice for Sale of State Owned Enterprises**

Reference to Privatization Commission International Tender Notice No. 04/2002/63 dated 28/07/2002 for sale of State Owned Enterprises the entry under the heading "Brief Information" as appearing against People's Jute Mills Ltd, Khalishpur, Khulna at Sl. No. 1 is amended to now read as follows:

"Except 48.60 decimal land, situated at Gulshan Model Town the saleable land in the mill area is more or less 70.34 acres. Nos. of looms-923. Products — Hessian, Sacking, Carpet Backing and Clothes. Annual production capacity — 22,950 Metric tons. Present condition — Running."

All other terms and conditions as given in the above tender notice will remain unchanged.

**Secretary**  
 Privatization Commission  
 Phone: (880-2)-9551986  
 PABX No. (880-2)-9563763-5  
 Fax: 88-02-9556433

GD-684



The Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad staged a hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding reopening of the Adamjee Jute Mills.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Dialogue**  
 The American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) organises a dialogue on 'Arsenic Poisoning Awareness among the Rural Residents in Bangladesh'. Dr Bimal Kanti Paul of Kansas State University, USA will present the keynote paper. Venue: WVA auditorium, Road-16, House-20, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.00pm.

**Human chain**  
 Supreme Court Lawyers' unit of Bangabandhu Parishad will form a human chain demanding immediate execution of the verdict of Bangabandhu murder case. Venue: In front of the Supreme Court. Time: 9.00am.

**Conference**  
 The 34th central conference of Bangladesh Krishi Bank and the inauguration of its web site will be held with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 11.00am.

**BCU rally**  
 Bangladesh Chhatra Union will organise a rally and take out a procession demanding immediate reopening of Dhaka University and restoration of congenial atmosphere on the campus. Venue: Mukhtangan, Ramna. Time: 4.00pm.

**Prize distribution ceremony**  
 The annual prize distribution ceremony of Goran Ali Ahmed High School will be held with Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas as chief guest. Venue: School premises. Time: 4.30pm.

**Founding anniversary**  
 The second founding anniversary of the weekly Banura Kaniha, published from Banura upazila of Comilla district, will be held with Women and Children's Affairs Minister Khurshid Jahan as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

**Workshop**  
 A national workshop on 'Disaster Management and Media', organised jointly by Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC) and Oxfam, will be held. Venue: CIRDP auditorium. Time: 8.30am.

**BIP meeting**  
 A meeting of Bangladesh Jatiya Party will be held with its Chairman Mohammad Nazur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: 5/5, Block-A, Lalmaia. Time: 7.30pm.

# Sajeda Chy gets bail in corruption case

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail for three months to Awami League leader Begum Sajeda Chowdhury in a corruption case.

Division bench comprising Justice Gour Gopal Shah and Justice Mohammad Abdus Salam granted the bail on a writ petition and issued rule to show cause why the petitioner should not be granted bail.

Bureau of Anti-corruption on August 2 filed a case with Moneypool Police accusing the former

minister of obtaining a Rajuk plot at Banani through false affidavit concealing her ownership of a plot at Nikunja Residential Area allotted in 1997.

She applied on January 27 in 2000 for a 5-katha plot submitting an affidavit that she had no housing plot in Dhaka city. Former Works Minister Mosharraf Hosain who is also an accused in the case, was behind her securing the plot illegally, it is alleged.

## ADB's training seminar begins today

BSS, Dhaka

Asian Development Bank (ADB) will hold a two-day Management Training Seminar on Involuntary Resettlement at the Bangladesh Resident Mission here beginning today.

Project Directors, senior officers of government agencies, and representatives of prominent NGOs will take part in the seminar, a press release said.



## Justice Salma appointed addl judge of HC

Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury, the first woman lawyer of the Supreme Court Bar, was appointed additional judge of the High Court Division recently, says a press release.

Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury administered the oath to her on July 29.

Salma obtained LLB (Hons) and LLM degrees from Dhaka University. She was enrolled as an advocate of the High Court Division in 1983 and as an advocate of the Appellate Division in 1996.

She is a member of the executive council of the National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh.

Salma is the daughter of Justice Chowdhury A T M Masud, a former judge of the Supreme Court (Appellate Division) and also a former Chief Election Commissioner, and Aminun Nessa Khatun.

## Obituary

Nehaluddin Ahmed, a retired deputy accountant general, died of a cardiac arrest on Friday at the age of 68, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, three sons, one daughter and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at the Intellectual Martyrs' Graveyard in Mirpur after Jumma prayers.

His quikhwani will be held tomorrow at 5/G Sheltech-Monihar apartment in Tejaigon.

## CPB to observe Nat'l Mourning Day on Aug 15

UNB, Dhaka

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will observe the National Mourning Day on August 15 with due respect to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

CPB president Monjurul Ahsan Khan and general secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim in a statement yesterday declared the party's decision and urged all to observe the National Mourning Day in a befitting manner.

They condemned the government decision to cancel all official programmes of the National Mourning Day.

The CPB leaders termed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib 'unparalleled leader' of country's independence movement and said the BNP-led government, formed with anti-liberation elements, was out to distort and disgrace the history of the War of Liberation.

They said the government was deliberately trying to wipe out the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib from state-run media and the national programmes of the Independence Day.