## The Daily Star



# **Tk 40cr projects** soon for acid, road mishaps erosion victims

#### BSS. Dhaka

The government has decided to launch two new projects to assist the victims of acid attack, natural

calamities and road accidents. The social welfare ministry has undertaken the two projects -- one worth Tk 15 crore for acid victims and the other worth Tk 25 crore for the victims of natural calamities including river erosion, and road

accidents The project profiles have already been prepared and the implementation will begin soon, Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan M Mujahid told the BSS yesterday.

He said the aim of the projects is to make the affected people selfsufficient financially. Under the schemes, the ministry will disburse micro-credits among the affected people to help generate self-

employment facilities Under the projects, one victim would get micro-credit ranging from

Taka 5,000 to Taka 20,000 If the projects are proved effective, the allocations would be raised even in the current financial year, the minister said. Mujahid observed that his minis-

try, by introducing the project for acid victims, was responding to a demand of the day as the number of acid victims was increasing along with the growing trend of acid violence in society.

Financial assistance is essential for acid victims as their sufferings

## 10 hurt as BNP factions clash in Feni

#### **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni**

At least ten people were injured in a clash between two factions of the ruling BNP at Ahmedpur in Sonagazi upazila of the district yesterday morning.

According to local people, the factions -- one led by Belal and another by Mahin -- clashed over establishing their supremacy in Ahmedpur union

The feuding groups exploded bombs and exchanged gunshots during the clash that lasted an hour. Of the injured persons, four

identified as Israfil, Mahabubul Haq, Nasir and Dulamia, were admitted to Sonagazi Health Complex while others given first aid. Police have been deployed in Dengue the area to avert further clash.

are immense. They become crippled in all respects -- physically, mentally and financially, he

observed. The social welfare minister felt that the state should come forward to provide financial assistance to the acid victims, who cannot lead a normal life as they become dependent on others and a burden on societv

Ali Ahsan M Mujahid said his ninistry would conduct a survey throughout the country very soon and then begin disbursement of micro credits among acid victims. The micro credits could be used

for self-employment activities tike small trading, vegetable farming, poultry and cattle raising, tree plantation, fish cultivation and ailoring and sewing.

The micro credits would be offered to both male and female victims of acid violence. However priority would be given to the female victims, the minister said. Referring to the other project, he

said those who are rendered homeless due to natural calamities like riverbank erosion, and become distressed financially would get micro credit for self-employment.

People crippled physically due to natural calamities or road accidents would also be entitled to micro credits under the project. The ministry is taking measures

for guick execution of the two new projects, the minister said

## Akuli Rani FROM PAGE 12

#### ter. Akuli's relation with her husband strained since Nirmal Mistry held a press conference on July 16, 1999, accusing his wife of

moral turpitude. Meanwhile, former state minisr Talukder Abdul Khaleque MP said that neither Akuli nor her alleged rapists belonged to Awami League. He said Akuli Rani had a long-time affair with BNP leader Molla Jalil, and added that Selim MP is trying to defame Awami League by getting his cadres to rape Akuli Rani. an adornment." she added.

While talking to this correspondent over phone, Selim MP countered Khaleque's allegation by saying that Khaleque is a liar and that it is rather Khaleque who is trying to defame BNP by sending AL activists into the BNP to act as agent saboteurs



BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan files Professor lajuddin Ahmed's nomination for presidency to Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed at the Election Commission in the city yesterday.

#### lajuddin FROM PAGE 1

the SSF, uniformed and plainclothes police were deployed for his secu-

In an interview with the BBC radio last night, Prof Ahmed said he was very happy to be nominated by the ruling coalition

Asked if he would be able to work neutrally, he said, "I will try." He however declined to comment on the disgraceful exit of Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury from the office of president.

ETV writs

FROM PAGE 1

petitioner's submission for nearly an hour. Attorney General AF Hasan Arif was present during the proceedings

The ETV Limited submitted two separate writ petitions to the High Court, one challenging Section 5 of the Telegraph Act, 1885 and the other against the August 29 notification that "curtailed various facilities awarded" to it.

Last Thursday, the ETV, the first private terrestrial channel of the country, was closed down after the Appellate Division had dismissed a review petition against a High Court Division verdict declaring the ETV licence illegal

draft of distribution of responsibility

### Commissioners FROM PAGE 12

**REUTERS**, New York The speakers also termed the

day

The economic cost New York City suffers as the result of the LGRD ministry as 'biased' since September 11 attacks will range it offers the sole responsibility to from \$83 billion to \$95 billion, women representatives only to work partly depending upon how against women and children many jobs are shifted out of the oppression. However, they may city, a new report said yester-

the World Trade Centre.

Miami's business districts.

Thompson said

When it comes to lost taxes,

New York City lost nearly \$3

billion and almost \$500 million in

unreimbursed expenses,

83,000 fewer jobs than before

Sept. 11 and Thompson esti-

mated that 63.000 jobs that

would have been created as the

city recovered from a downturn

New York City now has

When contacted vesterday Vice-chancellor Prof. Jasim Uddir Ahmad said, "We cannot hold VC panel election at this moment as the had repeatedly turned the campus High Court has not vet given anv situation tense, former JUTA presiverdict on the writ petition filed by dent Prof Enamul Hag Khan former VC Prof Abdul Bayes. We demanded his immediate removal. have to consult lawyers before Some teachers also demanded taking any decision in this regard.

> elections soon. Prof Bayes filed the writ challenging his removal from the post of VC by the chancellor on Novembe

The VC also said withdrawal of police from the campus is not possible now because of the persisting feud between the two JCD factions "We need them on the campus round the clock for our own security," he said

Prof Jasim Uddin noted that in all the universities, there is convention of appointing teachers on a temporary basis. They are given permanent appointments if new posts are

created or existing posts fall vacant. He mentioned that none in the present JU authorities were involved in filing cases against students.

### Death penalty FROM PAGE 12

soon became pregnant. With proposal of marriage, he took her to his house on July 3, 1998. Since then she remained missing.

Shortly, local Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity received an anonymous telephone call informing that Aklima was killed and buried under a paddy field. Mominul Islam Suruj, an official of the Samity filed a case and on order of the court the decomposed body of Aklima was exhumed

after 38 days of her murder. Lawyers belonging to Mahila

# Britain, Israel prepare for war with US on Iraq

Iragi people.

Jerusalem vesterday

to prepare for.

plans to do.

ons resume.

not given the Jewish state a date or

even confirmed if it will attack, saving

that November 1 was chosen as a

reasonable" deadline for the country

the prime minister, refused to com-

ment directly on the report, only

saying that Sharon "has said publicly

several times that Israel is well pre-

Israel fears that Iragi President

non-conventional weapons if the

United States attacks Baghdad, as

several senior hawkish US officials

have indicated Washington has

dismissed as a ploy Iraq's latest offer

regardless of whether the inspec-

The United States Tuesday

Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for

#### **REUTERS.** London

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, bidding to calm growing public alarm at the prospect, has begun preparing the nation for war with Iraq in his most uncompromising speech to date on the subject.

"I hate war, Every sensible person does. But sometimes it is the right thing to do," he told reporters at his Sedgefield constituency in northern England, promising convincing evidence soon that Iraq was stockpiling weapons of mass destruction.

"Iraq poses a real and unique threat to the security of the region and the rest of the world. Saddam Hussein is continuing his efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction. Confronted with this reality, we have to face up to it and deal with it." Many British newspapers

embraced the rhetoric with relish. "War will not wait" splashed the

tabloid Sun on its front page, while pared for any contingency ... if and the Daily Mail trumpeted "Blair lights when there is a response by Iraq." the fuse. Saddam Hussein could hit Israel with

The right-wing broadsheet Times joined the chorus with a front page headline "Everything points to war with Iraq.

"The elimination of Saddam's ambitions in this theatre is in Britain's national interests." it added in an editorial

Blair, who has twice taken his country to war -- in Kosovo and Afghanistan -- in just five years in power, said there was no realistic alternative to removing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein

"Either the regime starts to function in a completely different way --

Earth Summit FROM PAGE 12 Robert Mugabe for his controversial seizure of white-owned farms.

"In one country in this region, Zimbabwe, the lack of respect for human rights and the rule of law has exacerbated these factors, to push millions of people forward towards the brink of starvation," he said.

"In the face of famine, several governments in southern Africa have prevented critical US food assistance from being distributed by rejecting biotech corn which has been eater safely around the world since 1995.

"We are committed not just to rhetoric and to various goals, we are committed to a billion-dollar programme to develop and deploy advanced technologies to mitigate greenhousegas emissions," Powell said, to loud jeers.

The implementation plan - agreed by negotiators at the last minute: just after 1:00am yesterday -- covers action for providing fresh water, sewerage and electricity for the very poor and slowing the planet's loss of biodiversity and depletion of fisheries and forests.

But only a few of these goals have a deadline attached to them while details about how they will be achieved - the funds, skills and transfer of technology -are sketchy.

Hospital at 6:30am vesterday. A coalition comprising the United States and oil-producing countries shot down the European Union's demands for a timetable to give renewable sources a bigger share of the global when the accident took place. "We are expressing our disgust at the failure of the summit to deliver to the

and there's not much sign of that -- or Baghdad is not developing nuclear the regime has to change," he said. biological and chemical weapons, "This is an appalling, brutal, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld

dictatorial, vicious regime -- the said eople that would be most delighted "I haven't seen any indication on if Saddam Hussein went would be the their part to agree to anything, except as a ploy from time to time," Rumsfeld

AFP adds: Israeli Prime Minister said "There might be inspections. The Ariel Sharon has told his emergency and security forces to be ready for a inspections might be this, that or the US strike on Irag by November, amid other thing. And then you'll find at the fears that it could lead to Iragi attacks last moment, they'll withdraw that on Israel, the daily Haaretz said in carrot or that opportunity and go back into their other mode of thumbing The daily said Washington had their nose at the international com-

> munity." Rumsfeld and White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Washington wanted Irag to live up to its commitment to allow inspections mandated by UN Security Council resolutions, but both insisted that

would not be enough to satisfy the United States. Meanwhile, the Iraqi newspaper run by Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, yesterday hailed the Gulf oil

monarchies, traditionally close allies of Washington, for rejecting a possible US strike on Baghdad. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) adopted at the end of a two-

day ministerial meeting in Saudi Arabia Tuesday a "respectable stance that (all) Arabs could promote in their international relations," Babel

to allow UN weapons inspectors to return and said it was committed to This stance "lays out the bases of a ousting Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein collective understanding between Arab countries," the influential daily said calling it an "objective approach' Iraq is unlikely to allow the thorthat could facilitate "mutually respectough inspections needed to ensure ful" dialogue with the West.

Charges pressed Listed criminal against Tofail, Babar held in Chittagong STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctq

A listed criminal was arrested in the city on Tuesday night.

A special team of Kotwali thana police arrested Helal Akber Chowdhury alias Babar, 29, from Jubilee Road area at around 7 pm.

Babar, also a member of the teering committee of BCL Chittagong city unit, was wanted in eight criminal cases including murder and extortion. A case was registered with Kotwali thana in this regard

### One run over **STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

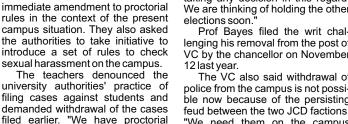
A speeding vehicle ran over a man in front of the National Orthopaedic Mohammad Ismail, an employee of a bookshop from Babupara. Nilkhet, was on his way to work from his Baunia Embankment residence The 22-year old was knocked down from the rickshaw he was on and crushed under wheel in front of

7 others in graft case BSS, Dhaka Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC) yesterday submitted charge sheet against eight persons including Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed

in a graft case filed with Motijheel thana on June 17. M Shamsul Alam Khan, Deputy Director of BAC, submitted the charge-sheet under Sections

206/420/424/109 of CrPC and Section 5(2) of Anti-corruption Act-2(1947). Two inspectors of BAC --Kazi Shamsur Rahman and Lutfor Rahman -- investigated the case.

BAC inspectors in the charge sheet said that Tofail Ahmed while as the industries minister illegally earned a huge amount of money To avert any possible confiscation of those money by the government he transferred Taka 6.32.95,000 to Bhola by fraudulent means and later he drew the money in collusion with some of his relatives, it added. The other persons implicated in the case are Managing Director of Medona Advertising Ltd. Harun-ar-Rashid, its chief accountant Anwarul Islam. Tofail Ahmed's relatives Mosharraf Hossain. Enamul Hoq Arju, Hamidul Mollah, Kamrul Hasan Milon, Iftarul Hasan and A Momin Tulu.



demanded withdrawal of the cases filed earlier. "We have proctorial rules to deal with our students", the former JUTA president said. The JUTA leaders criticised

recruitment of a number of new teachers without creating permanent posts for 25 teachers appointed earlier on a temporary

Besides, they demanded withdrawal of police personnel from the campus within 24 hours

New report puts

Sept 11 costs

between \$83b

and \$95b

**JUTA: Polls dates** FROM PAGE 12 campus situation Alleging that the proctor's 'wrong decisions' in dealing with students

## PMO seeks

#### FROM PAGE 12 directorate, who in turn informed the secretary that Huque had by that

time returned the computer to the office. Hugue's action took everyone by surprise. Huque along with four other food officials and the private

secretary of the food minister were made OSD on Monday for their involvement in the wheat procurement irregularities

Meanwhile, after joining at the establishment ministry yesterday, Hugue submitted an application to the secretary requesting the letter be sent to the prime minister. In his application, Huque claimed himself not guilty.

## Rickshaws

FROM PAGE 12

following metering. An official at the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) told The Daily Star last night that the government should make the use of meters mandatory for auto-rickshaws to cap haggle over fares.

### Mayor's wrath FROM PAGE 12

telling Dr Ashraf.

Each zone health official was empowered by a written mayoral order to purchase Malathion worth maximum of Tk 25,000 per week. If necessary they were authorised to purchase more through quotation.

"I have received numerous complaints from citizens about your negligence in spraving insecticide and it is quite unacceptable." Khoka is learnt to have told the health officials.

He ordered the DCC health department to speed up mosquitocontrol drive and asked the chief health officer to cancel preparation of tender documents for Malathion procurement.

The tender documents, being processed, were for purchase of 5,000 litres of Malathion from local market.

Dr Ashraf could not give any satisfactory reply to the mayor, sources said

FROM PAGE 1

The Dhaka Shishu Hospital, the Barisal Medical College Hospital (BMCH) and the Jessore General Hospital admitted four other patients.

The latest dengue victim puts official death toll at 42. while 4.029 dengue patients have so far been hospitalised.

Poised to FROM PAGE 1

Parliamentary Party asked him to step down as he did not visit the grave of late President Ziaur Rahman and described him as "the proclaimer of independence" on his last death anniversary.

If elected, lajuddin will to be the 17th president of the country. The main opposition Awami League has not fielded any candidates nor has any other political

party. lajuddin, 71, was born in Nayagaon village under Munshiganj district on February 1, 1931. He was an advisor to the first

caretaker government in 1991. Father of two sons and one daughter, lajuddin attended the UN General Assembly in New York in 1994

His wife, Professor Anwara Begum, teaches zoology at Dhaka University

He obtained first class in MSc examinations at Dhaka University in 1954. He completed his MS in the University of Wisconsin in the United States in 1958 and got his PhD in 1962 from the same univer-

He joined Dhaka University as an assistant professor in the soil science department in 1963 and became professor in 1973.

He was also the provost of Sir Salimullah Muslim Hall and dean of biology faculty. lajuddin was a member of Dhaka University senate, syndicate and academic coun-

Cil He was the chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission between 1991 and 1993 lajuddin was elected president of

the Dhaka University Teachers Association. He was also the chairman of the University Grants Commission.

He was also awarded Atish Dipankar Gold Medal in 1990 and Ekushey Padak in 1995 for outstanding contribution to education.

work along with the male commissioners for social and environmental development, healthcare and communication, the draft said.

prepared by

They expressed their resentment that it has limited their area of work and exempted men from any responsibility towards violence on women and children despite the fact that men are mostly responsible for

> The speakers raised several demands to resolve their problems. These include electing one male and one female commissioner in each constituency. They also suggested reservation of one-third seats of city corporation wards for

women to put an end to the dispute with their male counterparts. Mashuda Khatun Shefali of Nari Udyog Kendra, Shirin Ruksana of the DCC, Anjali Kundu of the CCC

and Nahid Sultana of the Khulna City Corporation among others spoke on the occasion.

FROM PAGE 1

last 10 months, the government paid them only Tk 5 crore hardly a month back. The bulk of the arrears (Tk 18 crore) remained unpaid till vesterday.

Sources said the non-payment of the dues of the contract growers has already affected the government's seed supply ability during last boro season. Many growers of last year's aman seeds declined to grow boro seeds due to the arrears.

Officials concerned feared that even if the outstanding bills of the contract growers are paid immedi-

## **PM:** Corruption

FROM PAGE 12 strength of the party, Khaleda sought co-operation from them to develop the country and to eliminate poverty, corruption and violence.

"We want to create fresh employment in the country and improve education, health and communication systems. We also want to create self-employment programmes for women and the

unemployed. These are tough tasks but not impossible," she added. Tarique Rahman was introduced

at the representatives meeting as the first joint secretary-general of the BNP. He also delivered a speech.

the prosecution.

City Comptroller William Thompson also estimated in his new report that it will cost \$21.8 billion to replace the buildings FROM PAGE 12 infrastructure and what he parties." called "tenant assets" lost as a result of the attacks that toppled

anti-autocracy movement in the Some 13 million square feet 90s. "We hope he would perform his of prime office space were duties impartially," he said. destroyed -- an amount equal to General Secretary of the all the office space in Atlanta's or

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Mujahidul Islam Selim said it is irrelevant to discuss the role of an individual as president of a country in which the economy is based on a 'demoralised capitalist system.'

Dr Moniruzzaman Miah, who was earlier reported to be a possible presidential candidate from the , alliance, declined to make any comment. "It is not appropriate and decent

to comment on the issue since it was a party decision," he said

the official projection, almost half or

the 280 lakh MT of foodgrain output

has to come from aman and wheat

both aman and boro, achieving the

government's projected foodgrain

output would be next to impossible,

Agriculture Minister Motiur

But now with the seed scarcity of

(together 132 lakh MT).

sources believe.

## Seeds: Bumper output

also have been lost.

ately, the public sector would not be able to replenish its aman seed stock for this year, thereby seriously affecting the aman output.

Sources further noted that due to the non-payment of the dues for such a long period, next year's wheat output might be affected too. Though wheat would be cultivated with the advent of next winter, the wheat growers may run short of seeds if the seed growers continue to decline growing seeds for BADC," an expert expressed.

One source expressed anger at this horrendous situation where farmers were being deprived of their dues.

He pointed out "the government seems to be having no problem in sanctioning Tk 90 crore for buying an additional one lakh MT wheat (mostly imported and thereby violating procurement rules) at the fag end of the procurement season but finds it difficult to pay Tk 18 crore only to the seed growers.

Recently, the government proiected an ambitious foodgrain production target of 280 lakh MT for 2002-2003 -- almost 20 lakh MT more than the last fiscal's (2001-2002) projected output.

But given seed crisis situation, sources were sceptic about meeting the foodgrain output target. As per

Ainjibi Samity appeared on behalf o

## Mixed reaction energy market.

Menon mentioned that lajuddin was a front ranking leader of the world's people and the environment," said Senator Bob Brown of the Australian Greens party, his arms linked with 10 protestors as they walked out of the summit venue.

The implementation plan had been "successfully orchestrated by the multinational corporations and the governments to pull the rug from under the feet of a programme to close the poverty gap around the world to save the world's environment," he said.

**BMA** polls

FROM PAGE 1 Nationalist Party (BNP) and the other backed by the Awami League.

Prof MA Hadi, vice-chancellor of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and former principal of the Dhaka Medical College, will vie for the post of president and Dr AZM Zahid, urology consultant at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and BMA's former joint secretary for the secretary gen-eral on the DAB ticket.

Professor Ruhul Hag, an orthopaedic surgeon and former director of the Pangu Hospital, will contend for the post of president and Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan, associate professor of pathology at the BSMMU and BMA organising secretary, for the secretary general from the AL-backed panel.

Meantime, both panels have stepped up campaign over the week and spent a huge amount of money on electioneering, sources said.

Most pharmaceutical giants especially multinational pharmaceuticals, have 'donated' funds to the panels. Private clinic owners and hospitals have also funded the campaign, the sources added.

Nominated leaders of both panels have rounded off their visits to five divisions before holding press conferences and rallies.

The last-minute electioneering reached a high pitch yesterday, with supporters of the candidates distributing posters, banners, stickers and leaflets. City walls have also filled with posters.

Meanwhile, security has been tightened at the BMA Bhaban. Police will be deployed to maintain law and order and commuters have been advised not to use Topkhana Road today to avoid traffic congestion.

the hospital, sources said. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

# **BUET** agitation

#### BUET

FROM PAGE 12 paraded through the campus streets.

A large number of police have been deployed on the campus to prevent any violence. Police checked identity cards of students and did not allow anyone to enter the campus except BUET teachers and students. However, representatives of some organisations managed to enter the campus to express solidarity with the agitating students.

Prof. Serajul Islam Chowdhury and Prof. Mozaffor Hossain along with representatives of different professional bodies including Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) and Bandladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTF) expressed solidarity with the students yesterday.

Meanwhile, the High Court yesterday stayed the expulsion order on Bijoy Shankar Talukder. an architecture student of BUET. The court also issued a rule ask ing the vice chancellor of BUET and others concerned to show cause within six weeks why the expulsion order should not be declared illegal.

The division bench of the high court comprising Justice MA Aziz and Justice Mohammad Momtazuddin Ahmed passed the order upon a writ petition moved before the court.

BUET authorities expelled Bijoy Shankar Talukder for four terms including the present one on charges of violating university rules and regulations. Talukder was also stripped of his status as a resident student.

The authorities said they would hold talks with quardians of the agitating students today to discuss the present situation of

yesterday said the normal academic activities of the university including classes and exams are running smoothly despite the hunger strike by a few students. It said some vested quarters as

A BUET press release issued

well as politically motivated teachers of other universities are trying to disrupt the academic programmes of BUET by encouraging the striking students. The university hopes that the vested quarters and the teachers of the other universities will refrain from such undesired interference.

The press release further said the senior teachers of the university are in regular contact with these students, trying to persuade them to call off their hunger strike and resume their normal academic activities. The university doctors are looking after the striking students round the clock.

Cell separator

#### FROM PAGE 1

tants hired for the job.

Later, a technician of the blood bank said consultants are available on call, but it was not required since the outbreak of dengue this season'. When contacted, the DMCH

Director Brig General Nazmul Huda said, "We have no order to keep the cell separator in operation 24 hours. If the authorities decides so, we will ask doctors to do that."

Asked what would be done if a patient needs platelet after the office hours on an emergency basis, he said, "We have instructed our doctors to be on alert to attend any patients needing blood transfusion."

Rahman Nizami could not be contacted for his comment and BADC officials concerned expressed their unwillingness to talk about the issue. They, however, acknowledged that of the 60,000 contract growers of BADC, who work in 15 zones

under two seed circles in the country, several thousands had been waiting for their last year's dues. One source told The Daily Star

that while the government remained indifferent over the lavoff of about 3,000 surplus staff at the 9,200strong BADC, this limping public sector enterprise has to bear the burden of paying fat pay checks to those surplus staff while keeping the farmers' payment outstanding for

months on end. The BADC, which requires Tk 10 crore every month for paying salaries against an annual income of Tk 9 crore only, is badly in need of a restructuring.