

ANTI-GRAFT COMMISSION

Donors working out strategy

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The donors are working out an anti-corruption strategy with the technical assistance of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and USAID to make the Independent Anti-Corruption Commission effective.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is also involved with the drawing up of the strategy and action plan.

"We are developing an anti-corruption strategy and plan to soon draw up an action plan to make the Independent Anti-Corruption Commission functional and effective," says the second review report of the three-year Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) loan, prepared last month.

Pressing the government for expediting the reform measures, the IMF report also observed faster progress with economic governance is crucial to improve the investment climate in Bangladesh. Reform measures in the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) and tax administration, in particular, directly affect governance and should have a lasting impact if firmly implemented.

Actions to reform the energy sector and the police will also be important, noted the report that also touched upon reforms in the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and liberalisation of trade to help garment exports face quota-free regime after the end of the year.

Since Bangladesh is vulnerable because of its heavy dependence on exports of ready-made garments (RMG) and on quota preferences, without a decisive policy response, the possible adverse balance of payment impact of lifting of MFA quotas on the country could be to the tune of \$1.4 billion during the next two fiscal years, the report observed.

The IMF has emphasised maintenance of a flexible exchange rate, significant reduction in anti-export bias through trade reforms, concerted efforts to improve the investment climate and prudent financial policies to mitigate the impact.

External competitiveness has been boosted as the effective

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



Rush-hour vehicles clog Tongi Diversion Road, as traffic jam was common to all major roads in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

500 containers detained at Ctg port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Over 500 containers, laden with imported cargo and unshipped from two foreign vessels, have been detained at Chittagong port yards to carry out search for smuggled weapons today, port and police officials said.

Earlier, intelligence agencies had received secret information about the weapons being ferried to the country in the containers, they added.

Army, port security personnel and police are guarding the containers at the yards of multipurpose berths of the port.

Port authorities have unloaded the containers under tightened security and army, intelligence personnel, police, port and customs officials searched inside the ships thoroughly.

The vessels arrived at the port from Singapore and Colombo two days ago, port sources said.

Port and custom officials said the consignees have already been advised to remain present during the physical checking of the containers.

Port sources said over 30 containers were bound for Dhaka ICD, while others were supposed to be delivered directly from the port.

Kuwaiti FM due Aug 23

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Mohammad Al-Salim Al-Sabah will arrive in Dhaka on a day's official visit on August 23 at the invitation of his Bangladesh counterpart M Morshed Khan.

Foreign Secretary Shamsher M Chowdhury will receive the distinguished guest at Zia International Airport.

Official talks between the two foreign ministers will be held in the afternoon of the day. Matters of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interests are likely to be discussed at the talks, a foreign office source said.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister is scheduled to call on prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the Prime Minister's office (PMO) prior to his departure for home by a special flight in the evening.

Foreign Minister M. Morshed Khan will host a luncheon in honour of Al-Salim Al-Sabah at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

PDB picks UAE firm's proposal to set up 450MW power plant

SHARIER KHAN

The Power Development Board (PDB) has picked the proposal of a UAE-based trading company to set up the 450 megawatt second phase Meghnaghat Power Plant project, sources said.

Although the PDB has always sought highly qualified and financially sound power companies having experience of setting up and operating power plants, it has pre-qualified trading company Belhasa that has never set up any power plant.

The PDB may now seek the cabinet purchase committee's approval of the decision at its meeting next week, sources said.

The power board sought offers similar to that of the 450 mw

Meghnaghat phase 1 power plant, which was built by American company AES with a 22-year levelised power tariff of 2.79 cents per kilowatt hour. Belhasa offered a power tariff of 2.78 cents per kilowatt hour.

Belhasa and three other companies submitted pre-qualification proposals for the project in September last year.

Belhasa is leading a consortium with Japanese power company Nishoiwai and Bangladesh business firm Orion. To show experience in power sector, Belhasa used the profile of Nishoiwai's past power projects.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

PM not seeing opposition in relief activities

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said the opposition political party that talked tall during election was not seen anywhere around at time of people's plight caused by devastating floods.

The prime minister made the observation when she went on a relief mission in the flood-affected areas of Kamrangir Char and Motijheel.

She urged the people to face the situation with patience and courage.

The prime minister said she came to see for herself the damage done by the floods and the suffering of the people. "The alliance government and the leaders and workers of BNP are working all over the country to mitigate the sufferings of the flood victims," she said.

She said the government will

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Iraq dy governor hurt in car bomb

4 Iraqi guards, 7 cops and Marine die in attacks; arrest warrants issued for Chalabi; top cop kidnapped

AGENCIES, Baghdad

A suicide car bomb exploded northeast of the Iraqi capital yesterday, an apparent attempt to assassinate a deputy governor. He was wounded, officials said, while seven policemen were killed.

The deputy governor of Diyala province, Aqil Hamid al-Adili, was in stable condition and was being treated at a US-led coalition medical facility, military spokesman Maj. Neal O'Brien said.

"This was a suicide attack with a booby-trapped car," Police Brig. Daoud

Mahmoud Mahmoud said. "We are busy moving casualties to the hospital."

Meanwhile, Iraq's chief investigating judge issued a warrant for arrest of former Governing Council member Ahmad Chalabi and his nephew Salem. Dismissing charges filed against them, the two termed the allegations part of a political conspiracy against them and their family.

The latest development pushed Ahmad Chalabi, once a Pentagon favorite to take leadership of the new Iraq, further from the center of power, over which he seemed to have a firm grip until he fell out with the Americans

in the weeks before the US occupation ended in June. He was charged with counterfeiting.

At least 17 people were also wounded when a white station wagon laden with explosives blew up outside al-Adili's home, where several police were deployed in two vehicles.

The blast shattered the windows of al-Adili's house, blew doors off their hinges and lightly injured the deputy governor's 9-year-old son, Mahmoud said.

Qaiser Hamid, a hospital official in the area, said his hospital had

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Students block Airport Road, protest death of classmate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students enraged by death of a fellow student in road accident barricaded the Airport Road for an hour causing a huge snarl-up in the city yesterday.

Abdul Samad Sumon, a third year student of accounting in Government Titumir College, was crossing road when an Ababil bus (Dhaka Metro 11-3096) ran over him on Staff Road at 11:30am on Sunday. He was rushed to the Combined Medical Hospital (CMH), where he died in the evening the same day.

On hearing the news the following morning, hundreds of agitating students of the college brought out a procession that marched to Mohakhali Bus Stand at about 1:00pm. They barricaded the Airport Road and vandalised a number of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

Outraged by the death of a classmate in a road accident, students of Government Titumir College smash a car, blocking the Airport Road for an hour and causing traffic snarl-up yesterday.

4 die in Japan nuke plant leak

REUTERS, Tokyo

A steam leak at a Japanese nuclear power plant killed four workers yesterday,

hospital officials said, but authorities said no radiation escaped in the accident, the worst ever in terms of deaths at a Japanese nuclear facility.

Seven others were injured, some seriously, officials said.

The incident, which took place on the anniversary of the 1945 atomic bombing of the city of Nagasaki, is certain to increase public distrust of the nuclear industry in Japan, which depends on nuclear power for a third of its energy needs.

"Radioactive materials weren't contained in the steam that leaked out ... We've received a report that there is no impact from radiation on the surrounding environment," an official at the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency told a news conference.

Police initially said five workers had died, but later corrected the figure to four.

The accident occurred in a building housing turbines for the Number 3 reactor at the Mihama nuclear

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Six get death for killing 3-year-old

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced six youths to death for killing a three-year-old girl on November 27, 2002.

The convicts are Momin, Milan, Mithu alias Sheikh Mahiuddin, Swapan, Rubel and Ziaur Rahman alias Zia.

The court acquitted a youth, Hatem, as the charge brought against him was not proved.

Judge AR Masud of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 delivered the judgement in presence of the convicts in a packed courtroom.

The convicts can appeal to the High Court against the verdict in 30 days, the judge said.

All the accused were brought to court at about 11:30am under tight security and the judge took his seat at 12:10pm. He read out highlights of the 34-page judgement in 15 minutes.

On hearing the verdict, convict Zia attempted to assault victim Maria's parents in the courtroom and threatened to teach them a good lesson.

Maria's parents expressed satisfaction at the verdict. "I hope criminals will take a lesson from the verdict, and will never break any parent's heart," said the girl's mother Saira Banu Mita.

The parents however apprehended accomplices of the convicts might attack them. They sought

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

MOSQUITO MENACE

DCC starts fresh drive in a week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will launch a fresh drive against mosquito menace in a week, with four crore litres of 'high-quality' insecticide, DCC sources said.

Dhaka city dwellers are no stranger to mosquito bites. But lately the sufferings have been compounded by recession of flood waters. As flood waters recede, city dwellers find mosquito population reaching alarming proportions.

As many as 1700 people have already been diagnosed with dengue and of them, five died in last two months. Situation is set to worsen with the aftermath of the devastating flood nearing.

Even more worrying is the threat of malaria that had been off for last twenty years.

Different newspaper reports claimed thousands of malaria positive patients have been found within last two years. And it may further the misery of the people.

Many hold DCC responsible for the current sorry state. Complaints about the DCC's performance in combating mosquito menace are rife.

The DCC authorities said they are confident that soon the sufferings

caused by mosquito will start to let up. They said they have changed their strategy to fight mosquito and are positive that the new strategy will work.

"It's between man and mosquito and we'll have to win the battle. We have bought world's best larvaecides naming 'linbet'. It will reach us within a week," said Colonel Dr Md Azizul Haq, the chief health officer of the DCC.

"For last 30 years the DCC has been trying to control the mosquito with adulticides. But I think, killing larva will be more effective," he added.

Referring to Aedes, the carrier of dengue, he said the DCC would not be able to control the Aedes. As the Aedes' life cycle is centred in household area, the homeowners or dwellers themselves will have to take the responsibility.

Experts said in case of spraying all the household areas in the city the DCC has to cover only 7,200 hectares, which is one fifth of the 36,000 hectares of area the DCC covers.

Though the chief health officer claimed the regular fogging activities to be going on, the scenario is somewhat different in the field.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

HC asks govt to absorb 1,500 Mujibnagar employees

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the government to absorb about 1,500 employees of Mujibnagar government in exile during the Independence War in accordance with the 1999 Supreme Court (SC) decision.

The SC in a judgement ordered the government to absorb 1,632 Mujibnagar employees subject to availability of vacancy.

The HC order came upon 36 writ petitions, which were heard analogous making the rules issued earlier absolute.

After independence, the government in 1972 had decided to make a list and absorb the employees of the Mujibnagar government. The absorption process was halted after two decades in 1993.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
August 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-41	6-44
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		