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## Corporate sector to be accountable to JS

Govt to draft law, meet 12 more conditions to get \$200m WB loan

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has agreed to a World Bank (WB) condition to draft a law by June to make the corporate sector accountable to parliament. If the government fails to draft the law and to fulfil another 12 mandatory conditions by June it will miss the third tranche of the WB's Development Support Credit (DSC). On the other hand, if it can and the WB is happy, Bangladesh will get between \$200 to \$300 million by June.

nation, which can lead to corruption and financial chaos.

The new law will introduce a system under which auditors will be appointed to look into the books of the corporate entities. The report of the auditors will then be placed at parliament.

"The government has to fulfil at least 13 such conditions," said a finance ministry source. The WB has spelled out a total of 64 conditions for the third tranche of the loan and 13 of them are mandatory to qualify to get the DSC's \$200 million.

A DSC mission of the WB last month visited Dhaka and spelled out the conditions after discussion with the finance ministry.

"If the government can fulfil all the 64 conditions, Bangladesh will get 300 million dollars," the source said.

The government is also compiling performance reports of all the ministries to present before parliament. However, it has not yet set the deadline of the task, as it is not one of the 13 mandatory conditions, sources said.

To ensure accountability of the corporate sector, the WB recommends promulgation of a 'Financial Reporting Act', which will include a provision for an independent oversight financial reporting council. The council will monitor how the

## Women unite for freedom, equality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"A revolution has begun and there's no going back. We must fight to ensure women's rights and security," read a slogan at a grand assembly of women in the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

Women and children affairs ministry organised the rally styled Jago Nari Shomabesh to mark International Women's Day 2005.

An estimated crowd of 15,000 women from all the 64 districts covered almost half of the grassland facing Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Participants held colourful placards, banners and posters and chanted slogans demanding women rights. "Let us pledge for women's freedom and equality. Bring action to fully realise gender equality, development and peace."

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, minister for local government, rural development and co-operative, was



Monipuri artistes dance at the inaugural ceremony of the women's rally organised by the Ministry of Women Affairs on the occasion of International Women's Day on the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

## Court allows cops to show Galib arrested in outlaw murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Militant kingpin Muhammad Asadullah Al Galib was sent to Gaibandha from Dhaka yesterday on completion of his 10-day remand.

However, members of the intelligence agencies who grilled Galib in the joint interrogation cell (JIC) remained tightlipped about the findings that they extracted from him.

Meanwhile, a Naogaon court has granted the appeal of police to show Galib and his four associates arrested on charges of killing

## Shady deals in prime abandoned property

Rajuk sold out plots in 'tightly controlled' tendering process

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The bidding process in Rajuk sales of certain prime properties in the Gulshan and Banani areas was manipulated behind the scenes, ensuring select individuals' preferential treatment in the bids, sources allege.

Early last year, Rajuk floated tender notices in a scheme to sell 29 abandoned properties, hoping to

use the funds to construct residences for government officials in the city.

The properties originally belonged to Pakistani nationals who fled the country following independence in 1971. The government later declared the properties 'abandoned' and used them for accommodating its officials.

Nineteen of the properties were sold in the process, and the authori-

ties now plan to float fresh tender notices to dispose of the remaining ten, which are located in Gulshan and Banani.

"The ministry has approved fresh invitation for tenders and we shall soon go public about it," Rajuk Chairman Shahid Alam said.

Rajuk officials, including the chairman, claimed that each property was sold for more than its 'book

## WB okays \$200m for post-flood recovery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank (WB) yesterday approved \$200 million package for post-flood recovery assistance programme in the country.

The package has three broad components -- infrastructure rehabilitation, import finance and livelihood restoration, a bank press release said.

Infrastructure rehabilitation programme will focus on rehabilitation of damaged roads, bridges, culverts and municipal infrastructure.

The component will also support the rehabilitation and renovation of primary and secondary schools in a way that the schools can also be

## No river linking scheme on Eastern Zone

BDNEWS, Kolkata

Indian Water Resources Minister Priyaranjan Dasmuni said that the Congress led coalition government will not implement river linking projects in the Eastern Zone to avoid any dent in relationship with Bangladesh.

Priyaranjan Dasmuni told this while addressing a press conference in Kolkata on Tuesday.

In reply to a question of BDNews correspondent, he said that the Indian government does not want to see any dent in relationship with its neighbours particularly with Bangladesh over the river linking issue.

India is giving priority over maintaining good relation with its neighbours, he said.

The stance of India on river

## ACC chief's controversial move for intelligence unit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Justice Sultan Hossain Khan yesterday unilaterally moved to propose appointment of 20 army officials, on deputation, to form intelligence and counter-intelligence units for the commission.

ACC sources said the chairman took the controversial initiative without any meeting of the commission. He will send the proposal to the cabinet division and establishment ministry.

Justice Sultan also plans to propose appointment of 29 government

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## Pakistan 312 all out

REUTERS, Mohali

Pakistan batsman Asim Kamal top-scored with 91 and paceman Lakshminpathy Balaji grabbed his maiden five-wicket haul to give a rousing start to the first Test in India on Tuesday.

Kamal missed out on a deserved maiden Test hundred but lifted a tottering Pakistan innings before they were all out for 312 at the close

on day one.

The Karachi left-hander, playing in only his seventh match, showed no hint of nerves as he played shots to all parts of the ground after Pakistan had wobbled to 104 for four soon after lunch.

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly's gamble to include Balaji as the third paceman on a grassy Mohali pitch paid rich dividends against

## DOCTOR, MAID MURDERS Suspicion on husband's nephew

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aminul, the nephew of Dr Nazneen's husband, killed her and her housemaid in Dhanmondi Monday night after the doctor

## Rab man held for bribery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested and took punitive action against one of its members for bribery, taking the number of Rab-men punished for various offences to 107 since its inception in

June last. Rab Intelligence Wing and Rab-3 members nabbed Sub-Inspector Hafiz of Rab Battalion 3 from Bhai Bhai Rice Store at Gopibagh in the city while receiving Tk one lakh in bribe.

## SSC EXAMS TOMORROW Milon plans chopper vigilance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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