

## CORPORATISATION OF BANGLADESH RAILWAY WB urges govt to expedite process

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank (WB) has urged the government to expedite corporatisation and modernisation of Bangladesh Railway (BR) to make the sector vibrant and competitive for rendering better services.

WB Country Director Christine I Wallich made the call at a seminar in the city yesterday.

The seminar on 'The future of Bangladesh Railway: Learning from

international experience' was organised by the World Bank in cooperation with the Bangladesh Railway (BR) at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Communication Minister Nazmul Huda was the chief guest at the opening session.

Speaking on the occasion, the WB country director said a major modernisation of BR would be needed for better support of the economy.

"Major investment will be

needed in tandem with reforms to improve BR's organisational structure and management practices, supported by a revamped policy environment for railways," she added.

Wallich said the ADB, JBIC and WB are joining hands to support the government's BR reform programme.

"A multi-year, multi-donor programme of up to US\$ 700-800 million is possible. The programme

is designed to include both policy reform and expansion of the rail track as well as improving signalling and communication system and procurement of rolling stock," she added.

Emphasising the need for a balanced transport system, Wallich said railway can be expanded with little land acquisition and is more environmentally sustainable which the road communication system is not.

"Railway saves energy and generates less pollution," she added.

The WB chief said the government's transport strategy has largely focused on the road sector with 85 percent of the annual transport development budget allocated to roads.

Nazmul Huda said there is no doubt that BR could not perform adequately to retain its share of the transport market.

"BR's declining revenue has been resulting in increasing deficit. With its resource constraints, the government cannot finance the increasing deficit," he added.

Huda identified that the major impediment for BR to provide efficient services and to retain its market share is the limitation of its physical infrastructure.

He said the government has undertaken steps to reform BR.

"BR will be able to become a vibrant sector earning considerable amount of revenue if it can ensure improved services to the people," he opined.

The minister informed that his ministry has been planning to establish an underground metro railway network in the capital city.



World Bank Country Director Christine I Wallich speaks at a seminar on 'The future of Bangladesh Railway: Learning from international experience' organised by the World Bank at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

### Tk 390 crore CCC budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) proposed a budget of Tk 390 crore and 81.27 lakh for 2006-07 fiscal yesterday.

Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury placed the proposed budget at the CCC auditorium. A revised budget of Tk 254 crore and 62.50 lakh for the last fiscal was also placed.

The budget for 2006-07 fiscal shows a surplus of Tk 2 crore and 44.57 lakh.

Of the total amount, Tk 208 crore and 26.27 lakh will come from the CCC's own resources while Tk 182 crore and 55 lakh will be available in the form of development grant and relief aid and from other sources.

The budget shows that Tk 138 crore and 44.70 lakh will be spent on management and maintenance while Tk 92.65 crore has been earmarked for development projects and payment of debts.

The CCC has allocated the highest amount of Tk 143 crore and 44.70 lakh for the creation of permanent resources of CCC.

### Unesco offers 15 fellowships

Bss, Dhaka

Within the frame work of Unesco Co-Sponsored Fellowships Scheme Loreal has declared 15 fellowships for promotion of young women who are carrying out research in the life sciences all over the world.

Candidates must already be engaged in pursuing research at the doctoral or post-doctoral level in one or 4 allied fields of life sciences including biology, biochemistry, biotechnology and physiology. Candidates must be 35 years of age, said a press release yesterday.

The study must be carried out in 24 months at least in one country abroad for a minimum duration of 12 months and a maximum duration of 22 months.

The value of the fellowships is four thousand US dollar.

Competent young women scientists are requested to collect the guidelines and application form from Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco (BNCU) Office, Banees Bhaban (3rd Floor), 1 Asian Highway, Palash-Nilkhel, Dhaka-1205 and submit the filled in application there by July 31, 2006.

Make headscarves mandatory for female students

Pro-Islamic Pak women demand

AP, Islamabad

More than 200 women rallied in the Pakistani capital on Monday demanding the government make it mandatory for female students to wear Islamic headscarves or hijab in schools and colleges.

The supporters of the Imamia Students Organisation, a Shiite students group, marched from a Shiite mosque to the press club in central Islamabad carrying placards reading "Protest against Western culture" and "We will take the veil to every home to protect women's dignity."

## 28 fishermen still missing in Bay

UNB, Bagerhat

At least 28 fishermen remained missing after eight fishing trawlers with 110 people on board capsized in the Bay of Bengal on Sunday night.

Of the 110 fishermen, 82 were rescued by coast guard members from the Bay during the overnight rescue operation, coast guard

sources said. They said some 500 fishermen in 50 fishing trawlers had gone to catch fish in the Bay. Of them, eight trawlers with 110 fishermen sank in the Bay as they were caught in a violent storm.

The missing fishermen were from Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Barisal, Bhola and Patuakhali districts.

## 'Project taken to increase tigers in Sundarbans'

Bss, Samsad Bhaban

The government has undertaken a project aimed at increasing the number of Royal Bengal Tiger with financial and technical assistance of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

This was disclosed by Minister for Environment and Forests Tariqul Islam in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. "Research is already going on under the project -- A study on behaviour and ecology of Tigers -- in the Sundarbans Reserve Forests," he said in reply to a question from Begum Hosneara Gias (Daisy).

Besides, Tariqul said, the forest department is keen to see that no impediment is created in the way of natural growth in the number of tigers in the Sunderbans.

Arrangements have also been made to conserve the wildlife including tigers by digging canals (Khorma-Bhola-Arobar) to reach sweet water inside the Sunderbans, he said.

The Environment and Forests Minister further said that the people living on the fringes of the world's largest mangrove forests are being

motivated to help the tigers go back to the jungle while they are seen in the human habitation.

Measures are also there not even kill any tiger if the animal is seen outside the Sundarbans, he told the House.

Sub-inspector of Detective Branch (DB) of police Ahsanul Kabir, also the investigation officer (IO) of the murder case, said, "We [police] have nothing to do if the court releases him [Salehi]. His arrest was necessary as he may have had some vital clues to the case."

Salehi is suspected of being one of the masterminds of the professor murder whose body was discovered in a septic tank behind his house on February 3 this year.

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Leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and its wing ICS yesterday said the High Court freed Rajshahi University ICS President Salehi on anticipatory bail.

Salehi had gone into hiding after three suspected killers of Taher in their statements said Salehi had suffocated Taher during the murder.

RU ICS Secretary Nur Mandal said, "Salehi is free and he is likely to visit the campus very soon for his master's exams."

Under pressure from Jamaat-Shibir, RU authorities recently allowed Salehi to take his master's examinations even though he failed to attend the required number of classes.

Salehi's involvement The three arrested killers, Jahangir, Nazmul and Abdus Salam, in their confessional statements said RU teacher Mohiuddin and Salehi were involved in the murder.

Salehi in his statement said, Salehi ensured Taher's death by suffocating him with a pillow over his face after Jahangir stabbed him. Nazmul, Salehi and Salam then dumped the body into a septic tank where he was found on February 3.

Jahangir in his statement said, Salehi and Mohiuddin persuaded him to commit the crime for over two months and offered him a computer and job at the university.

"I opted for shooting him to death but Salehi said that would make too much noise and Mohiuddin suggested suffocating him with the pillow," Jahangir said describing their planning before the murder.

The IO earlier told a Rajshahi court the police have evidence against Salehi which directly link him to the murder.

The police said, Salehi got involved in the plot to murder Taher to get Nazim a teaching job in the university and Salehi developed close relations with Mohiuddin through Nazim.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:16am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.0	28.0	69	85
Chittagong	31.8	6.5	79	93
Rajshahi	33.4	27.2	75	89
Khulna	32.0	26.0	80	--
Barisal	29.5	25.8	92	--
Sylhet	36.4	28.2	55	--
Cox's Bazar	28.0	26.5	92	100

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Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions, Met Office said in a forecast. It said that day temperature might fall slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 36.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 25.2 degree Celsius at Teknaf.

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