

WB to assist in poverty cut

UNB, Dhaka

World Bank has expressed its willingness to provide assistance in poverty alleviation and education of poor children in Bangladesh by providing vocational training.

A four-member World Bank delegation expressed the interest yesterday while meeting LGRD and Cooperatives and Labour and Employment Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal at the latter's office.

During the meeting, the WB delegation also discussed matters of mutual interest and progress of various WB-financed projects under the LGRD Ministry.

The delegation members

included WB Country Director Xian Zhu and Sector Director Julian Schweitzer. Two other officials Qaiser Khan and Senior Social Protection Specialist Andrea Vermehren were also present.

The four-member WB delegation also met Health and Family Welfare, Water Resources and Religious Affairs Advisor Maj Gen (retd) Dr ASM Matiur Rahman at his office yesterday and discussed various issues of health sector.

The adviser and the WB delegation discussed releasing of allocated funds and bringing dynamism in implementing development works.



PHOTO: STAR

Adviser to the caretaker government and Sheltech Chairman Tapan Chowdhury presents Sheltech Padak 2006 to drama personality Abul Hayat and Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed at National Press Club in the city yesterday.

BBC BANGLADESH SANGLAP

AL, BNP want reforms before polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Awami League (AL) and BNP have said they want the next parliamentary election to be held after carrying out necessary reforms and creating a level playing field so that the poll is held in a free and fair manner.

"The present caretaker government (CG) has assumed the power with a pledge to hold a free and fair election and it seems that they are heading towards their goal," said AL Organising Secretary Mahamudur Rahman Manna at the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap programme in Bogra on Saturday night.

Manna said the CG as well as the Election Commission (EC) should make public about how much time they would need to carry out reforms and to create a level playing field for holding the next election.

Former BNP lawmaker GM Siraj said reforms are necessary to hold a free and fair election and the present government is doing that.

But if the government takes more than one year to hold the elections in the name of reforms and other agendas then the present public confidence in it might fade away, he observed.

BBC World Service Trust and BBC Bangla Service jointly organ-

ised the debate programme at the auditorium of Parjatan Motel in Bogra.

Kamal Ahmed, senior producer of BBC Bangla Service, moderated the event.

Editor of daily Karotoa Mojammel Haque Lalu and Executive Director of TMSS Prof Hosne Ara Begum took part in the discussion.

All the discussants were critical of power misuse by politicians and their children and said those who looted relief materials should be given exemplary punishment so that such incidents do not take place in future.

Abu Sayeed, Abul Hayat win Sheltech Padak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Actor and Dramatist Abul Hayat won the Sheltech Padak 2006.

Adviser to the caretaker government and Sheltech Chairman Tapan Chowdhury gave away Tk 1 lakh and a crest to each of them at the award giving ceremony at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Addressing the ceremony as the chief guest, Tapan cited the contribution of Prof Sayeed and Abul Hayat in the society and said the nation needs personalities like them who work hard all through their life to enlighten people.

In his reaction, Prof Sayeed said people work for enjoyment and for the feeling of fulfilment in life.

Expressing concern over the environmental pollution for construction of buildings indis-

criminate leaving narrow space or no space for streets, he said the mentality of people needs to be changed for development of the society.

Abul Hayat said the new achievement increases his inspiration to work further for the society.

Sheltech introduced the Padak in 1998 to honour distinguished personalities of the country.

Dramatist Momtaz Uddin Ahmed and Film Director Shubhash Dutta were awarded the Padak for the year 2005.

Sheltech Director and Envoy Group Chairman Kutubuddin Ahmed, Sheltech Director and Square Group Vice Chairman Samuel S Chowdhury and Channel I Managing Director Faridur Reza Sagor were present as special guests at the function presided over by Sheltech Managing Director Dr Toufiq M Seraj.

Amini gets anticipatory bail

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to Mufti Fazlul Huq Amini, former MP and chairman of a faction of Islamic Oikya Jote, for three months in connection with a criminal case of grabbing a house at Boro Katra in the old city.

Passing the order on a petition, a division bench of the High Court also issued a rule upon the government to explain why Amini should not be granted regular bail.

IBA to launch EMBA in May

UNB, Dhaka

The Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Dhaka University is going to launch an Executive MBA (EMBA) programme in May.

The EMBA Programme has been designed to meet the needs of professionals who are looking to develop broad-based management skills.

Fake cosmetics factory unearthed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court unearthed a fake cosmetics factory at Lalbagh in the city yesterday and jailed four people while two other mobile courts fined two restaurants and three bakeries under pure food ordinance.

Shaheen and his brother Shakil used to manufacture and market fake cosmetics, including talcum powder, baby powder, body lotion, fairness cream and shampoo copying products of established local and foreign brands.

They turned their house at Hajidas lane in Lalbagh into a factory to manufacture fake cosmetics with low quality raw materials.

The mobile court led by Metropolitan Magistrate Rokon Ud-Doula sentenced four employees, including Shaheen's wife Marium Bibi one-month imprisonment and fined Tk 1 lakh each.

The court issued warrant against the owners, as they absconded.

Meanwhile, a mobile court led by Metropolitan Magistrate Jahangir Alam fined three bakeries in Badda Natun Bazar Tk 30 thousand each under pure food ordinance.

Another mobile court led by Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur Rauf Khan fined a canteen at BCS computer city Tk 20 thousand and Ghorowa Hotel at Purba Razabazar Tk 10 thousand for shabby and unhygienic environment, and for using burnt oil for preparing foods.