

ADB assessing needs to back anti-crime drive

Says deputy director general

UNB, Dhaka

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is in a process of assessing Bangladesh's needs, including institutional capacity building, to support the country's ongoing drive against corruption and improve governance.

"We hope to process it this year," ADB Deputy Director General for South Asia Department Sultan Hafeez Rahman told reporters following a meeting with Finance Adviser Dr Mirza Azizul Islam at the Finance Ministry yesterday.

He was replying to a question whether ADB would help Bangladesh strengthen the capacity of its institutions like Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in carrying out anti-crime drive to ensure good governance.

The senior executive of the Asian Development Bank arrived in the

city yesterday on a weeklong visit to assess the need of Bangladesh in this regard.

"What I can say is to see which area pays a great deal... be it Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) or other institutions," Sultan Hafeez said.

He added that ADB has active engagement in this area and its major priority is to promote good governance. "We'll continue our effort to be engaged in this area," he said.

The ADB official had talks with the finance adviser on the whole range of issues, including ADB's ongoing projects in Bangladesh.

Dr Aziz said the six-member ADB delegation, which included country Director Hua Du, appreciated the government's ongoing efforts and promised to continue their support to Bangladesh.

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issues, including governance reform programmes and power sector development, he added.

Later, the visiting ADB senior executive had a meeting with Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Lt. General (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury at the Commission office.

They had talks on governance reform having several components. "We're very much engaged in governance reforms in Bangladesh," Sultan Hafeez told reporters after the meeting.

The ADB DDG is also scheduled to hold talks with few other advisers, Bangladesh Bank governor and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) as well as visit Chittagong Port and Chittagong EPZ during the visit.

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Conjoined twins die soon after birth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Conjoined male twins were born at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) yesterday.

The twins with joined head, chest and abdomen, however, died one minute after their birth.

The twins, weighing 1.7 kilograms, had separate ears, hands and legs in usual number while they shared a single mouth and nose.

A woman, 22, hailing from Patiya gave birth to the twins at 12:30pm following a caesarean at the Antenatal and Labour ward of the CMCH.

She was admitted to the hospital on March 12, said Dr Samad, one of the four doctors who conducted the surgery.

Dr Lutfar Rahman, gynaecology consultant of the ward, said he did not hear of such birth of conjoined twins in the hospital in last five years.

He said the doctors could not find out the cause of their death immediately as they survived only for a minute, which was so little time to examine.

He, however, said this kind of twins might develop abnormality in internal organs that might cause their death.

Dr Hena led the surgery with the help of Dr Samad, Dr Bithi and Dr Kasem.

The doctors did not want to disclose the identity of the parents of the twins as the parents did not agree.

Dr Lutfar said they might preserve the twins in formalin in the hospital for study.

Smiling Sun clinic opens in Moulvibazar

A community healthcare centre has recently been inaugurated at Kalapur union in Srimangal, Moulvibazar, near the Chevron Bangladesh's gas field, says a press release.

This is the second clinic bearing the insignia of Smiling Sun. Chevron Bangladesh is providing financial support to these clinics.

Andrew L Fawthrop, president and managing director of Chevron Bangladesh, attended the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest while Robert J Timmons, Chief of Party, NSDP, was the special guest.

With the financial support of Chevron Bangladesh and the technical assistance of NSDP, Sylhet Samai Kallyan Sangstha has set up and will run this second Smiling Sun clinic, a USAID supported healthcare programme.

Under this programme there will be one static clinic and two satellite clinics in the area. The satellite clinics will cover further 24 satellite spots in every month. The static clinic will have facilities for caesarean and normal delivery and will provide pathological as well as ambulance services alongside regular health care services.

Andrew L Fawthrop said, "The success in providing healthcare services to the local people through the first Smiling Sun clinic in Inatganj near the Bibiyana gas field has inspired us to establish this second clinic."

He hoped that it will usher in a new era by ensuring healthcare of local people. He also hoped that members of the community will extend their all-out support to ensure delivery of effective service.

Oxford Int'l School distributes Academic Excellence Award

Oxford International School yesterday distributed 'The Academic Excellence Award' to its students who achieved highest marks in the world and Bangladesh in different subjects in the GCE O Level Examinations of October/November 2006 of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), says a press release.

Sharmin Khansur and Shajia Meraj achieved the highest marks in Bengali and Mathematics (Syllabus D) respectively in the world.

Among the students who appeared from Bangladesh, Sheikh Md Andan got the highest marks in English Language and Biology. AZM Ariful Haque Rehal in Additional Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics and Tasneem Akther got the highest marks in Computer Studies.

William Bickerdike, Manager, South Asia of Cambridge International Examinations, handed over the certificates to the brilliant students as the chief guest.

Congratulating the award winners, William remarked that Bangladeshi students are talented enough to show their brilliance and competency in many areas across the globe.

Mark Parkinson, principal, head of school and GM Nizam Uddin, coordinator of the school, also spoke on the occasion.

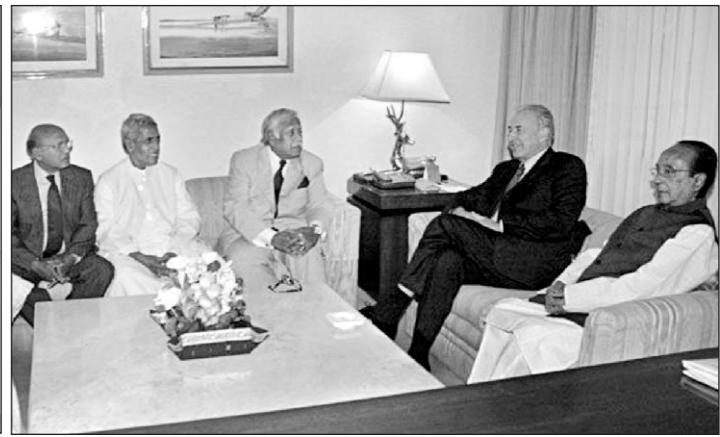


PHOTO: BNP

PHOTO: AL

Commonwealth Secretary General Donald McKinnon calls on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her residence in the city, left, and Awami League leaders, right, at a city hotel yesterday.

Int'l Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination today

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh reaffirms its unequivocal support for the efforts of the United Nations and international community towards the elimination of all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed said this in a message on the occasion of 'International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination' to be observed across the world today.

He urged all to protect the rights and interests of the disadvantaged in this era of globalisation. "I fervently hope that the goodwill and concerted efforts of everyone will win over the threat of all kinds of racism across the world."

Fakhrudin mentioned that Bangladesh's constitution prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of race, religion, caste or creed, gender or place of birth.

Also as a party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Bangladesh remains fully committed to upholding the sacred principles and objectives of the convention," he added.

Fakhrudin said the annual observance of this day reminds obligation of all to reaffirm commitment to foster respect, equality and diversity in our respective societies.

"As a result of the relentless fight against racism, we have been able to ensure basic freedom and rights of majority of the people but new forms of racism and intolerance threaten to undermine the achievements," he said.

The Chief Adviser said it is unfortunate that immigrants and asylum-seekers often face severe discrimination adding, "It's time we recommit ourselves to protect the rights of the migrant workers to ensure peace and harmony in our respective societies," he added.

"With the influence of government high-ups and police, Laltu took the lease of the land and threatened me and Giasuddin with death several times," he added.

Three shops were also demolished during the encroachment of the land.

Despite several attempts, Laltu could not be reached over cell-phone.

"There is no report on constructing 'Online Filling Station' owned by Laltu, and action including cancellation of lease will be taken if investigation finds the allegations true," he added.

"An investigation is being conducted against those who have failed to initiate construction work of CNG station on leased-out government property within the stipulated period," said a senior assistant secretary on condition of anonymity.

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