

Tk 130cr Japanese grant for development

Bangladesh will receive 2213 million yen equivalent to Tk 130 crore as grant assistance from Japan under three agreements signed in Dhaka for three development projects, said a press release yesterday.

The projects are Improvement of the Storm Water Drainage System in Dhaka City (Phase-II), Human Resources Development Scholarships (JDS) and Establishment of the Meteorological Radar System in Moulvibazar.

Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Masayuki Inoue and Secretary of Economic Relations Division Aminul Islam Bhuiyan signed the Exchange of Notes at ERD on behalf of their respective governments.

Under the first agreement, 919 million yen equivalent to Tk 54 crore will be provided for the improvement of the Storm Water Drainage System in Dhaka City (Phase-II).

As the urban drainage is one of the most important and urgent issue, this grant will be utilised for improving and reinforcing the existing infrastructure of drainage facilities as well as urban health, safety and hygienic conditions in the high priority drainage zones in the capital.

Considering its importance, the Government of Japan has been supporting the project since 1991.

Since then three pumps having 10 m³/s capacity and other relevant equipments were installed and these facilities are contributing to environmental development in the

capital during rainy season.

The grant will cover reinforcing the capacity of earlier-constructed Kalyanpur Pumping Station and sludge removal capacity through open channels and drainage pipes, and procurement of various equipments.

Earlier, under a Japanese grant the basic design of this project was prepared by the government and Dhaka Wasa is executing the project.

The second agreement was signed for the establishment of Meteorological Radar System in Moulvibazar at a cost of 1000 million yen equivalent to Tk 59 crore.

Bangladesh is a land which is always affected by flood, flash floods, storm, cyclone and other natural

calamities. All these natural calamities cause significant setback of national economy and living standard of people.

Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC) are unable to obtain adequate data for providing weather forecast and warning for flash flood or flood causing heavy rainfall in the northern Sylhet, the upper river basin of Meghna, and Meghalaya Hills which are located out of the detection range of the existing radar network of BMD.

Flash flood occurs frequently in these areas, but the existing warning system is not functioning efficiently. So an improvement of the warn-

ing system is very important because an early warning is the key component for the success of disaster management.

Japan has been assisting in the construction of meteorological radar system in Bangladesh in order to ensure the country's sustainable development.

In order to adopt preventive measures from natural disaster, the Government of Japan, upon request of the Government of Bangladesh had earlier completed the Basic Design Study for the establishment of Meteorological Radar System in Moulvibazar.

The construction of new Doppler Radar Station in Moulvibazar will be most effective for timely forecasting and warning to minimise the damages in lives and properties in the regions.

There are also meteorological radar systems in Rangpur, which was built in 1999, and another one in Cox's Bazar, which was inaugurated in April this year. A project to improve such system at Khepupara is going on.

The third agreement was signed for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) programme for the next year at a cost of 249 million yen equivalent to Tk 17 crore.

Under this programme, the government will start selecting candidates for 7th JDS in August this year.

A total of 20 people will be selected for studying in Japan for two years from July 2008.



Japanese Ambassador Masayuki Inoue and ERD Secretary Aminul Islam Bhuiyan sign the notes regarding Japanese grant assistance for Improvement of the Storm Water Drainage System in Dhaka City (Phase-II), Human Resources Development Scholarships (JDS) and Establishment of the Meteorological Radar System at Moulvibazar at a ceremony in the city yesterday.

Cops feel unsafe to keep forest boss' wealth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Uttara police are anxious about safety of the Tk 1.50-crore movable property kept in their station since seizure from the residence of now sacked chief conservator of forests (CCF) Osman Gani on May 29.

They yesterday petitioned the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka for immediate measures to shift those either to the Bangladesh Bank or Dhaka district treasury.

It could not be known though when the court's decision regarding the petition filed on security grounds would come.

The seized property has been a cause of concern as the police station does not have any vault or compartment for the safe storage of valuables or money in cash.

"We are worried as keeping such huge assets calls for extra safety measures," said Syed Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station.

"It's a problem for us also because some of our men have to stand on guard round the clock for the movables when we were already faced with inadequate manpower," he noted.

The property kept in malkhana (store) of the police station includes local and foreign currencies worth Tk 1.6 crore, 103 tolas of gold, fixed deposits valued at Tk 11 lakh and savings certificates at Tk 22 lakh.

Meanwhile, wife of the ex-forest boss on Monday submitted an application to the home secretary, seeking permission to withdraw money from her personal accounts to bear everyday expenses.

The authorities froze all accounts of Osman Gani and his wife following recovery of the 'ill-gained' wealth.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also expected at places over the country during the period, Met office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly over Khulna, Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

Under the influence of active monsoon over eastern part of Bangladesh, heavy to heavy rainfall is also likely at places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 3:00pm today.

Highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessor and lowest 21.2 degree Celsius at Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:47pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.0	24.0	88	92
Chittagong	28.0	21.2	100	97
Rajshahi	31.0	24.4	94	90
Khulna	34.4	28.0	88	96
Barisal	33.0	26.8	95	--
Sylhet	31.8	23.3	89	74
Cox's Bazar	25.5	24.5	97	100

Prof Md Abu Saleh has been appointed as the vice-chancellor of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology (BUBT) for four years, says a press release.

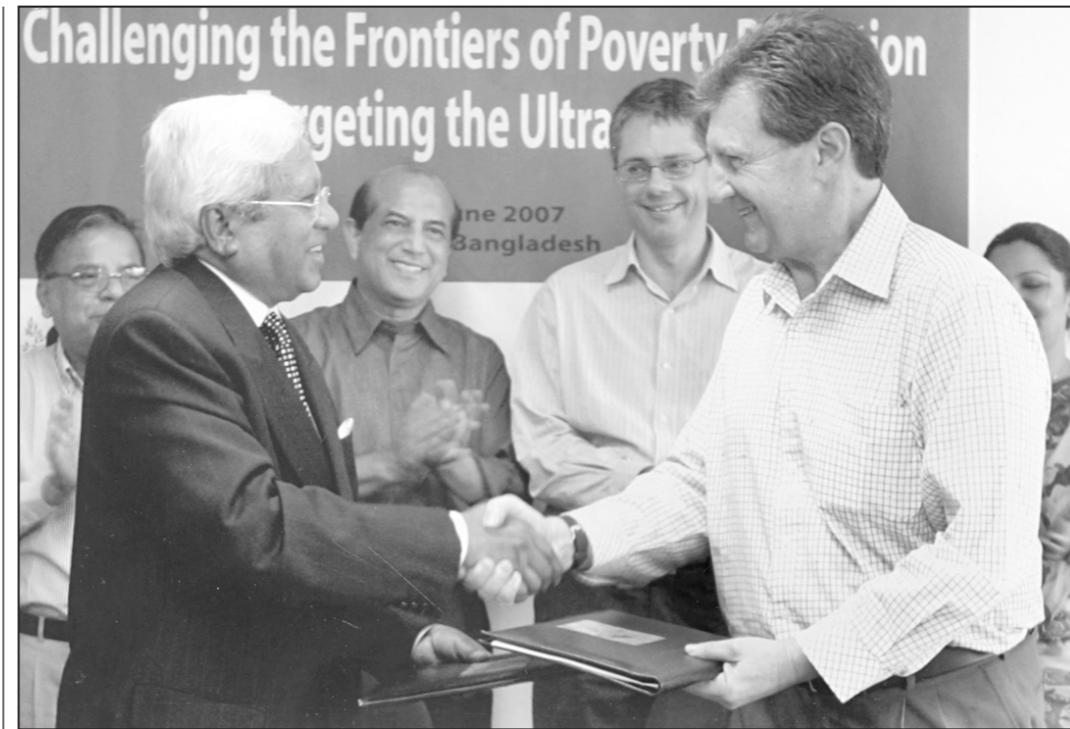
Before joining his new assignment on June 2, Prof Saleh was the chairman of the Department of Management Studies at Dhaka University.

Prof Abu Saleh new VC of BUBT



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Founder and Chairperson of Brac Fazle Hasan Abed and Director General of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) Bruce Davis exchange copies of agreement at the Brac Centre in the city yesterday.

Australia to fund Brac's poverty reduction project

The Australian government will provide AUD 2.1 million (Tk 12.2 crore) for the Brac's Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction -- Targeting the Ultra Poor (CFPR-TUP) Programme, says a press release.

An agreement to this effect was signed between Director General of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) Bruce Davis and Founder and Chairperson of Brac Fazle Hasan Abed at the Brac Centre in the city yesterday.

Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett, AusAID Regional Counsellor Percy Stanley, senior Brac officials and other dignitaries were also present at the signing ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Bruce Davis appreciated the Brac's efforts to eliminate extreme poverty.

He said, "I am very pleased that Australia's aid will contribute to reducing extreme poverty of four million people in Bangladesh through this Brac programme. Brac is also making a significant contribution to the development of Bangladesh through its microfinance, health and education programmes."

Abed said, "We are grateful to the Australian government and the people of Australia for the support they are providing to some of the most disadvantaged and deprived families. On a pilot basis, this support will help many ultra-poor families transition to better lives and livelihoods."

The CFPR-TUP programme, which was launched in 2002, is a multi-donor funded initiative aimed at reducing extreme poverty in the country.

MAN 'BEATEN UP' IN CAMP

Army men start probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of army personnel visited the Concept Tower at Green Road in the city yesterday in connection with the Monday's incident in which a resident of the Tower was allegedly beaten up by an army captain over personal dispute.

The army men told the Concept Tower Welfare Society members that they were investigating the incident and assured them of a fair trial. Society President Akhtar Hossain told The Daily Star last night.

On Monday, five people in army uniform and two in plain clothes, including captain Shibli, took the resident, Mahbub Alam Liton, to an army camp in Shahbagh at around 7:00am from his home. In the camp, Shibli, a captain of engineering corps, and the other plainclothes person, who claimed to be a major, beat him up for half an hour, Liton told The Daily Star.

Captain Shibli's mother owns a flat on the 13th floor of Concept Tower and the dispute between them arose over the raising of a wall near the lift on that floor, Liton said.

The army personnel visited the Tower yesterday as Liton's wife Meher Afroz lodged a complaint with the Science Laboratory Army Camp against Shibli and six others on Monday.

"The army personnel videoed the areas around the lift on the 13th floor and talked to the members of the Welfare Society," said Akhtar Hossain.

The condition of injured Liton, who is now undergoing treatment at Samorita Hospital, has improved slightly, hospital sources said.

Four shanties gutted, 2 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people sustained burn injuries in a fire that also gutted four shanties, including one that was used for producing fake engine oil, at Jatrabari in the city yesterday.

The injured were identified as Majedul, 35, manager of the factory and Mistar, 40. They were rushed to local clinics.

Sources said the fire originated from the shanty of one Mafizuddin Rana at Dhalpur Badal Sardar Goli at 12:00 noon where they used to produce fake engine oil.

The fire broke out after the shanty got extremely heated where the workers were busy producing fake engine oil and soon engulfed three nearby shanties.

Majedul and Mistar got injured in the fire while the inhabitants of the shanties were trying to get out of their shanties.

Three units of fire fighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after an hour-long effort.

Meanwhile, some local goons looted valuables from the shanty of one Sheuli when people were busy trying to put out the fire.

SSC RESULTS

None passes from 248 institutions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Not a single examinee in 248 educational institutions, including 165 Dakhil madrasas, could come out successful in this year's SSC or equivalent examinations while a total of 774 educational institutes, including 611 Dakhil madrasas, achieved 100 percent pass rate.

A total of 985 examinees were expelled this year, which was 1,291 in last year, 17,46 in 2006, 3,381 in 2004, 13,217 in 2003 and 35,970 in 2002.

Examinees of 12 Cadet Colleges achieved glorious results in this year's SSC examination with 100 percent pass rate and 93.44 percent securing the highest grade point average (GPA-5).

The educational institutions with zero success rate include 15 schools under Dhaka Board, 12 schools under Rajshahi Board, 19 schools under Barisal Board, three schools under Comilla, Chittagong and Sylhet boards each, 165 Dakhil madrasas under Madrasa Board and 28 vocational schools under Technical Education Board. Only Jessor Board does not have any such educational institution.

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Today is the eighth death anniversary of Dr AH Shahadat Ullah, says a press release.

A doa mahfil will be held at Road No. 121, House No. 5, Apartment No. 5-A, Gulshan after Asr prayers. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

Today is the 2nd death anniversary of SMA Baqui, an advocate of Bogra Judge Court and the Supreme Court, says a press release.

He was also a senior sub-editor of the Bogra-based daily Korota.

A milad mahfil will be held at his village home at Takahut in Kalai, Joypurhat.

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