

\$102.26m WB credit for water projects

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank has approved a US\$ 102.26 million credit to support Bangladesh's efforts in improving its national water resource management.

The Bank has approved the loan in Washington DC on Tuesday with an expectation that some 2 million households would benefit from the project, according to a message received here yesterday.

It said crop losses during pre-monsoon and monsoon periods would decline and agricultural production would increase due to improved drainage and flood control and expansion of irrigation.

"As we've just learned from the recent devastating floods, management of water resources is critical to mitigate the impact of floods," World Bank Country Director Xian Zhu said.

"This project will support rehabilitation and improvement of existing flood control, drainage, and irrigation schemes, which will reduce the vulnerability to future natural disasters," he added.

The Water Management Improvement Project is designed to enhance water management by expanding the role of local communities, from planning and design to operations and management.

It also aims to improve institutional performance of the country's principal water institutions - Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and Water Resources Planning Organisation (WARPO).

Bangladesh is prone to recurring natural disasters like floods, erosion, cyclones and tidal surges that result in human casualties and economic losses.

Each year, up to 30 percent of the country is inundated, flooding about 6 million hectares. People living in coastal and riverine areas in general are specially exposed to the dangers of natural disasters.

The project will support rehabilitation and improvement of about 102 existing flood control, drainage, and irrigation schemes and transfer their management to the local communities through Water

Management Organisations (WMOs).

It will also support measures to improve performance of another 98 existing schemes that do not require major rehabilitation and have functioning WMOs or similar organisations.

"The long-term objective of the project is to institutionalise a participatory management process for improving the performance of all feasible water schemes," said Masood Ahmad, World Bank's lead water resources specialist and project team leader.

"Participation of all stakeholders, especially local communities, from the outset is crucial in order to promote sustainability and to ensure the long-term integration of social and environmental considerations," he said.

The credit from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's concessionary arm, has 40 years to maturity with a 10-year grace period. It carries a service charge of 0.75 percent.

KCC chief engineer suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Chief Engineer of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Liaquat Ali Sharif was suspended yesterday on charges of misappropriation of funds.

Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman issued the suspension order under Section 38 of the KCC Officials and Employees Service Rules.

According to a press release issued by the mayor yesterday, the chief engineer, who also acted as the Municipal Services Project manager, misappropriated funds allocated for the implementation of the project.

The mayor also suspended Project Assistant Hafizur Rahman on the same charges.

The mayor took the action on the basis of a report on the findings of a two-member probe committee headed by first class Magistrate Md Nazrul Islam.

Justice Matin takes oath

Bss, Dhaka

Justice Mohammad Abdul Matin yesterday took oath as a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Chief Justice M. Ruhul Amin administered the oath at the Judges Lounge of the Supreme Court. Judges of both the benches of the Supreme Court and officials concerned were present at the oath taking ceremony.

Earlier, President appointed Mohammad Abdul Matin, a judge of the High Court Division (HC), as a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Registrar of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Ikhtedar Ahmed conducted the ceremony, a press release of Bangladesh Supreme Court said.

CU Chhatra Union president Monti freed on bond

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University (CU) unit president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Monti Boishnab, was released on bond hours after her arrest on Tuesday as she complained of chest pain.

Monti, an MA student of Oriental Language, was arrested at her Bahaddarhat residence on Tuesday afternoon for her alleged involvement in August 22 vandalism on the campus.

She was released at around 11:30pm after her brother Tapan Boishnab signed an undertaking, stating that he would produce the BCU leader before a Hathazari court on September 25.

Officer-in-charge at Hathazari Police Station said they sent Monti to the upazila health complex as she had been complaining of chest pain.

"Considering her condition and doctor's advice, we made the arrangement for her release," he said.

Monti was the second to be arrested in a case police filed on August 26, accusing hundreds of unidentified CU students and outsiders in connection with the campus incident.

Earlier, a CU unit Samajtantrik Chhatra Front activist, Bijoy Kumar Das, was arrested on September 1 in the same case.



Prothom Alo journal gets child literature award

Sanwar-Ul-Islam, a senior sub-editor of the daily Prothom Alo, has won M Nurul Kader Child Literature Award for the year 2007, says a press release.

Sarwar has been awarded the prize for his novel 'Kalopari'. The award includes crest, certificate and Tk 10,000 in cash.

Sarwar writes chhara (rhyme), story and novel for the children. So far he has authored a total of 32 books. Of these books 'Kanabogir Chha, Khokar Chhara Khukir Chhara, Bilai Mao Kata Khao, Megh Diachhe Uru Chithi, Brishtira Jai Ishkule, Good Bye Tata are collections of Chhara (Rhyme); Lal Surjer Desh, Lokta Paliye Gelo, Irkiti Kirkiti Bhutang Chowdhury and Picchiburi are novels and Dushto Chhele Omi, Bhuter Nam Elating Belting, Bhuter Lal Half Pant and Ishkul Jatra are collections of stories.



PHOTO: PID

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed presides over a meeting of the Council of Advisers at his office in the city yesterday.

Another case filed against ex-BNP MP Giasuddin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Another case was filed against former BNP lawmaker Giasuddin in Narayanganj last night on charges of extortion of Tk 72 lakh.

On behalf of the owners of four lime factories, Shafiqul Islam, owner of Dhaka Limes, filed the case with Shiddhirganj Police Station against Giasuddin, his bodyguard Salim, Zaman and close aide Abdullah Al Mamun.

In the first information report (FIR), Shafiqul alleged that Giasuddin extorted Tk 72 lakh from Dhaka Limes, Madina Limes, Jazia Limes and Harun Limes on different occasions during the period from February 28, 2002 to January 31, 2003 through his accomplices.

Four Islamist 'militants' arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has arrested four members of Islamist outfit Allah'r Dal in Rangpur and Nilphamari.

The arrestees are Abdul Mabud alias Shamim (19) of Babu Para, Ershad Hosen (18) of Khotkhotia in Rangpur, Ali Hosen alias Feku (20) of Chhoto Rouda, and Jamal Uddin (25) of Domar upazila in Nilphamari.

Rab seized some printed and hand written documents from them.

Sources said Rab arrested Abdul Mabud Shamim from his Babu Para's residence on Tuesday. Shamim disclosed the names of his three accomplices during the interrogation. Later, Rab detained them from their houses.

A Rab official said the arrestees admitted that they are members of Allah'r Dal and were trained by Motin Mehedi, detained in Kurigram few months ago.

Expatriates in Oman donate \$37,320 for flood victims

Bss, Muscat

Bangladeshi expatriates in Oman donated US\$ 37,320 to Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund as a token of sympathy to the flood victims in the country, says a release of Bangladesh embassy in Oman received here yesterday.

The students and teachers of Bangladesh schools in Muscat and Jaalan also contributed Tk around 2 lakh as a sympathetic gesture, the release added.

ROTARY CLUB RAMNA Saplings planted at Matuail landfill

Bss, Dhaka

Rotary Club of Ramna yesterday started a sapling plantation programme at Matuail landfill under the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) for maintaining environment.

President of the club Dr Razaul Karim inaugurated the plantation programme by planting a lemon tree.

Director of the Landfill Improvement Project of the Waste Management Division of the DCC Dr Tariq-bin-Yousuf, former Inspector General of Police Ismail Hossain, former Chief Engineer of the Public Health Engineering Department Mohammad Kadiruzzaman and General Secretary of the club M Nurul Islam were present in the inauguration programme.

Project sources said the Matuail landfill is situated on about 100 acres of land. Around 1,600 tonnes of waste are dumped everyday.

Rezaul Karim said the Rotary Club will plant three to four thousand sapling at the Matuail landfill every year. Besides, it will provide education for waste collectors, he added.

JAMUNA BRIDGE

'Allow toll-free movement of vehicles with essentials to reduce prices'

UNB, Dhaka

An inter-ministerial meeting yesterday decided to request Communications Ministry to allow toll-free movement of essential goods-laden vehicles through Jamuna Bridge as a strategy to reduce the prices of essential items.

The price monitoring committee also decided to continue monitoring the price situation at the city's kitchen markets.

Held at the Commerce Ministry's conference room with Additional Commerce Secretary Golam Mostakim in the chair, the meeting reviewed supply, stock and overall price situation of the essentials.

The meeting decided to ascertain annual demands and local productions of different essential items. The

ministries and government agencies concerned were asked to submit reports in this regard at the next meeting of the committee to facilitate proper planning for the next year.

It also reviewed the steps taken by the government in keeping the prices at the tolerable level during Ramadan. These included Operation Dal-Bhat Programme of BDR, fair price shop of Ansar and TCB, introduction of market monitoring programme and view-exchange meetings with business leaders.

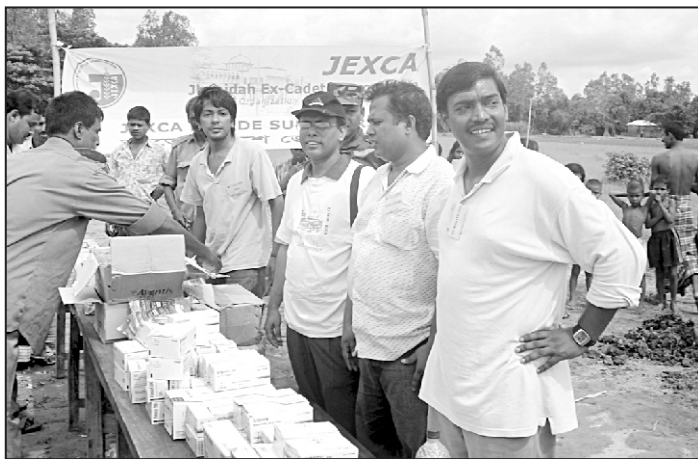
Representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture, Industries, Fisheries and Livestock, and Home, DGFI, Police, BDR, TCB, NBR, Agriculture Marketing Department, Agriculture Extension Department and BBS were present at the meeting.



Mir Nasir Hossain, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), hands over a cheque for Tk 10 lakh to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office on Tuesday for the Relief and Welfare Fund. FBCCI Vice-President Dewan Sultan Ahmed is also seen.



American International University - Bangladesh (AIUB) Vice-Chancellor Dr Carmen Z Lamagna hands over a cheque for Tk 6 lakh to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

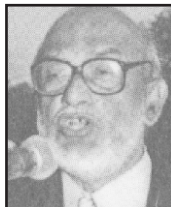


Jhenidah Ex-Cadets Association (JEXCA), an association of ex-cadets of Jhenidah Cadet College, organises two relief and medical camps for the flood-affected people on the Jamuna riverbank recently. One camp was organised at Kakua village in Tangail, while another camp operated at Hugra Degree village.



Rover Scouts making packets of seeds at the National Scouts Bhaban at Kakrail in the city. With the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bangladesh Scouts starts distributing 5 categories of vegetable seeds as part of post-flood rehabilitation programme yesterday.

Obituary



Dr. Mir Abul Khayer Ghatu, former law-maker and a leader of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), passed away at

Suhrawardi Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 80, says a press release.

Dr Khayer, also a Language Movement veteran, was buried at Shingair in Manikganj.

He got involved in politics during his student life. He was elected member of parliament in 1970 and in 1973.

Meanwhile CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Azizul Haque Shahjahan

Bss, Mymensingh

Prominent sports organiser, politician and social worker Azizul Haque Shahjahan passed away due to a cardiac arrest at United Hospital in the city on Tuesday night at the age of 62.

He left behind his wife, two daughters, a son and host of relatives and admirers to mourn.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Golkebari.

Yusuf Mohammad Yakub Sharif

Alhaj Abul Yusuf Mohammad Yakub Sharif, a retired government official and father of Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, organising secretary of Awami League (AL), passed away due to old age complications at Royal Hospital in Sylhet in the early hours of yesterday at the age of 86, says a press release.

He left behind four sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Acting AL President Zillur Rahman expressed deep shock at the death of Sharif.

In a condolence message, he prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

AL presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and AL Acting General Secretary Mukul Bosh in separate messages also condoled his death.

Death anniversary



Today is the 7th death anniversary of Prof. Muhammad Shahjahan, former vice chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), says a press release.

His family members requested all to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

KN Saadat

Today is the first death anniversary of KN Saadat, an educationist and politician, says a press release.

Popularly known as Prof Rawnak in southwestern Khulna-Jessore region, Saadat retired as principal of Government Sundarban College, Khulna, in 2003. He was one of the founders of City College, Jessore, and member of Jessore Institute, a famous cultural centre.

A disciple of populist leader Maulana Bhasani, Saadat joined the Bangladesh Nationalist Party during its formation and became the founder general secretary of the greater Jessore district unit.

On the occasion, a Quran khwani will be held and Fateha will be offered at the Qabala graveyard in Jessore.

Abul Khair Muslehuddin



Today is the 5th death anniversary of poet and literati Abul Khair Muslehuddin, says a press release.

He was also the director general of now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption and acting inspector general of Police. He authored more than hundred books.

On this occasion, Abul Khair Muslehuddin Foundation will hold a Quran khwani and doa mahfil at his village home.

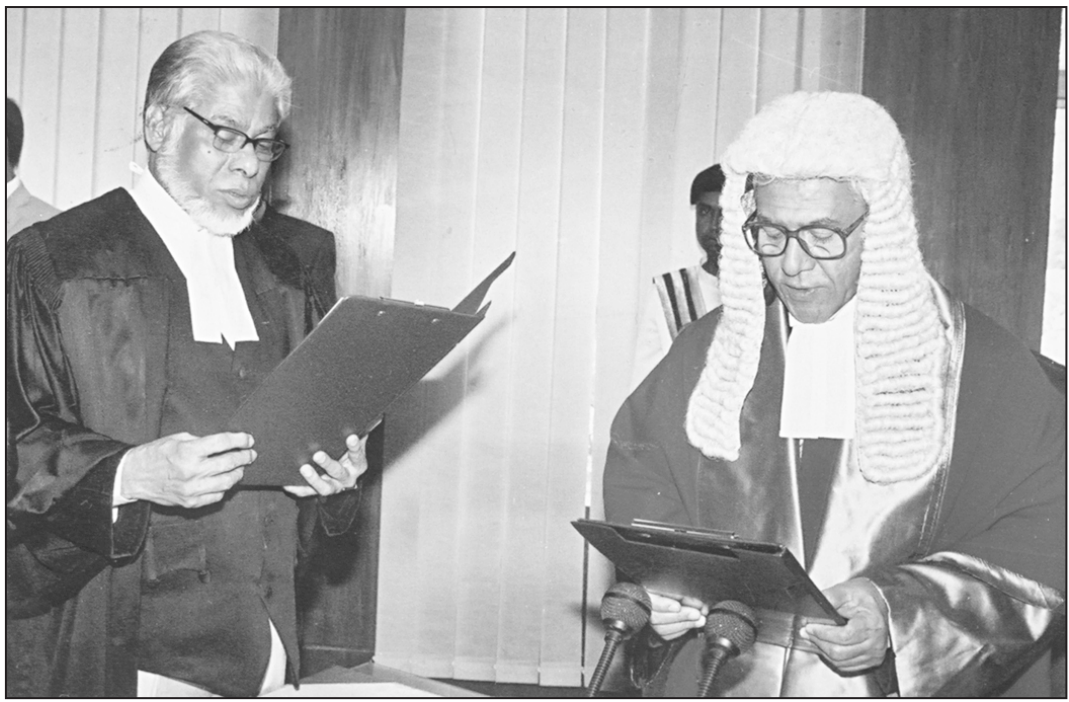


PHOTO: PID

Chief Justice M. Ruhul Amin administers the oath to Justice Mohammad Abdul Matin as a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court at the Judge's Lounge of the Supreme Court yesterday.

Nato launches new anti-Taliban operation

AFP, The Hague

About 2,500 troops launched a new operation against Islamic rebels in one of Afghanistan's most volatile areas yesterday as 25 people were reported killed in fresh Taliban-linked violence.

The offensive targeting the Al-Qaeda-supported militants that ruled Afghanistan until 2001 coincided with a suicide attack in the same province which a police commander said wounded eight policemen.

Another suicide attacker exploded a car bomb on a road linking Kabul to the main US military base about 60 kilometres (40 miles) north of the capital, but only the bomber was killed, the interior ministry said.

Troops backed by air power kicked off the operation in the early morning in the southern province of Helmand's Upper Gereshek Valley, an area that has seen weeks of intense fighting between Taliban and soldiers, including troops from Britain.

"It is an operation to clear out Taliban insurgents in that particular area and help to restore governance to that area," said Major Charles Anthony, a spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.9 degree Celsius at Tangail.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:58pm today and rises at 5:47am 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	34.8	26.0	73	75
Chittagong	30.8	26.0	83	89
Rajshahi	34.0	26.8	84	87
Khulna	34.9	26.0	83	85
Barisal	33.8	25.5	81	98
Sylhet	34.8	25.1	63	57
Cox's Bazar	32.6	25.0	92	78



PHOTO: STAR

Taslim Ahmed speaks at a press conference on the launching of the 3rd Citycell Channel i Music Awards at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday. On his right are Faridur Reza Sagar, Anand Rajasingham and Sania Mahmood.