

\$102.26m WB credit for water projects

UNB, Dhaka

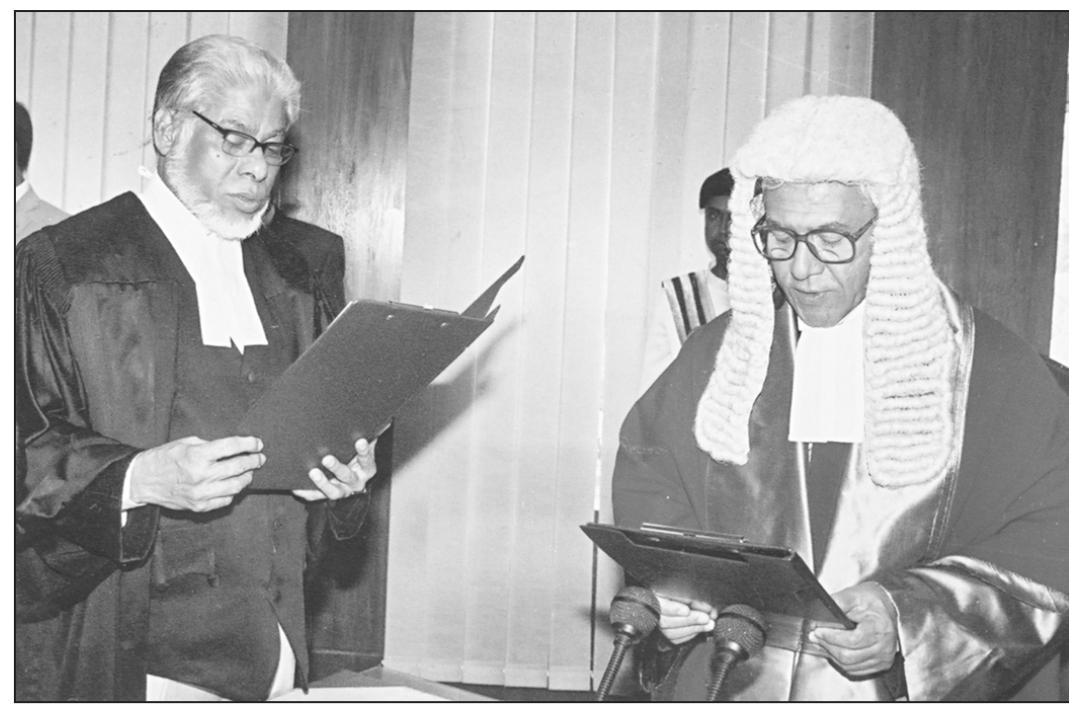
The World Bank has approved a US\$ 102.26 million credit to support Bangladesh's efforts in improving its national water resource management.

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.



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 Gereshk 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).



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.

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 received 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 Iktedar Ahmed conducted the ceremony, a press release of Bangladesh Supreme Court said.

The Chittagong University (CU) unit president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Monti Boishab, 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 Boishab 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.

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.

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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.

American International University - Bangladesh (AIUB) Vice-Chancellor Dr Carmen Z Lamagna hands over a cheque for Tk 10 lakh to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

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 saplings at the Matuail landfill every year. Besides, it will provide education for waste collectors, he added.

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