



British Foreign Office Asia Director John Dennis calls on Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

US pledges \$173m for health plan

UNB, Dhaka

The United States will provide \$173 million or Tk 1,373 crore for funding health, economic growth and environmental programmes in Bangladesh.

To this effect, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Bangladesh government have already signed formal agreements, said an announcement yesterday.

The USAID will provide the funds over five years for programmes supporting maternal and child health, family planning, tuberculosis eradication and HIV/AIDS mitigation under the health and population agreement.



Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed receives cheques and relief goods for flood-affected people from different associations at the Banquet Hall in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

Eminent citizens demand release of Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-seven eminent citizens in a statement yesterday demanded release of former prime minister and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina before Eid-ul-Fitr.

They said Hasina, eldest daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, played a vital role in establishing democracy, rule of law and people's democratic rights in the country.

They said Hasina as a prime minister steered the country on the tracks of development and progress through signing CHT peace agreement and Ganges water sharing treaty, realising February 21 as the International Mother Language Day, introducing allowances for the widows and the elderly people and establishing rehabilitation centre and employment banks.

They said Hasina has been arrested in a so-called 'extortion' case filed by the present caretaker government when her husband Dr Wajed Miah, a renowned nuclear scientist, is seriously sick.

They said considering all these, Hasina should be freed before Eid.

The signatories on the statement are Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Justice KM Sobhan, Prof Shamsul Huda Harun,

Businessman shot by extortionists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists shot a businessman at Suratpur in the city yesterday.

Abdul Khaleque, 55, owner of Alpha Engineering motor workshop at Dayaganj was shot in his abdomen and left leg as he refused to pay them toll.

Locals said a gang of four criminals went to his workshop at around 4:15pm and demanded toll from Khaleque. They fired on him, leaving him critically injured.

They hurled two hand-made bombs at the local people as they tried to chase the extortionists.

Local people rushed Khaleque to a local hospital from where he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Family members said the extortionists have been demanding Tk 5 lakh over cellphones for the last two months from Khaleque.

Voters' registration begins in Sylhet, Barisal

STAR REPORT

The task of preparing voter list began yesterday in Sylhet and Barisal City Corporations.

There will be 83 centres for voters' registration in 27 wards of Sylhet City Corporation.

Deputy Election Commissioner of Sylhet division Khondaker Mizanur Rahman said registration

of voters will be done in the city's five wards in the first phase. Later, it will be conducted in other wards.

The enumerators after completing door-to-door visits by October 18 to gather information about the voters will submit lists to the supervisors.

Meanwhile, 30 wards of Barisal City Corporation have been divided into five zones for preparing the

voter roll and national ID cards, said our Barisal correspondent.

Enumerators started collecting information in seven wards which has to be completed by October 10.

Nigar Sultana Hanifa, commissioner of ward no 7, said an 11-member committee, headed by a ward commissioner, has been formed in each ward to spearhead the enumeration work.



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