

\$149m IDA credit to improve water, sanitation situation

UNB, Dhaka The World Bank has approved a US\$149 million IDA credit to Bangladesh to support the improvement of water supply and sanitation services in the city.

help improve drainage and minimize urban flooding. The project will also support Dhaka Wasa's pilot expansion of water and sanitation services into some of Dhaka's slum areas to help increase services to the urban poor, and finance training to improve hygiene practice in the slums.

country director for Bangladesh. He added, "Households in slum areas tend to rely on more costly alternative sources and alternative providers which often pose quality issues. This project aims to improve and expand these services to all people living in Dhaka, especially poor people."



Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury sees off US Senator John McCain at Zia International Airport in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

PETROBANGLA-CHEVRON DISPUTE Hearing deferred by 5 months

UNB, Dhaka Hearing on the dispute between state-owned Petrobangla and US oil company Chevron over four percent wheeling charge has been deferred by five months.

Proposal to hold DU convocation on Jan 29

DU CORRESPONDENT The deans' committee of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday proposed to hold the 45th convocation of the university on January 29.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES Call to ensure representation in parliament

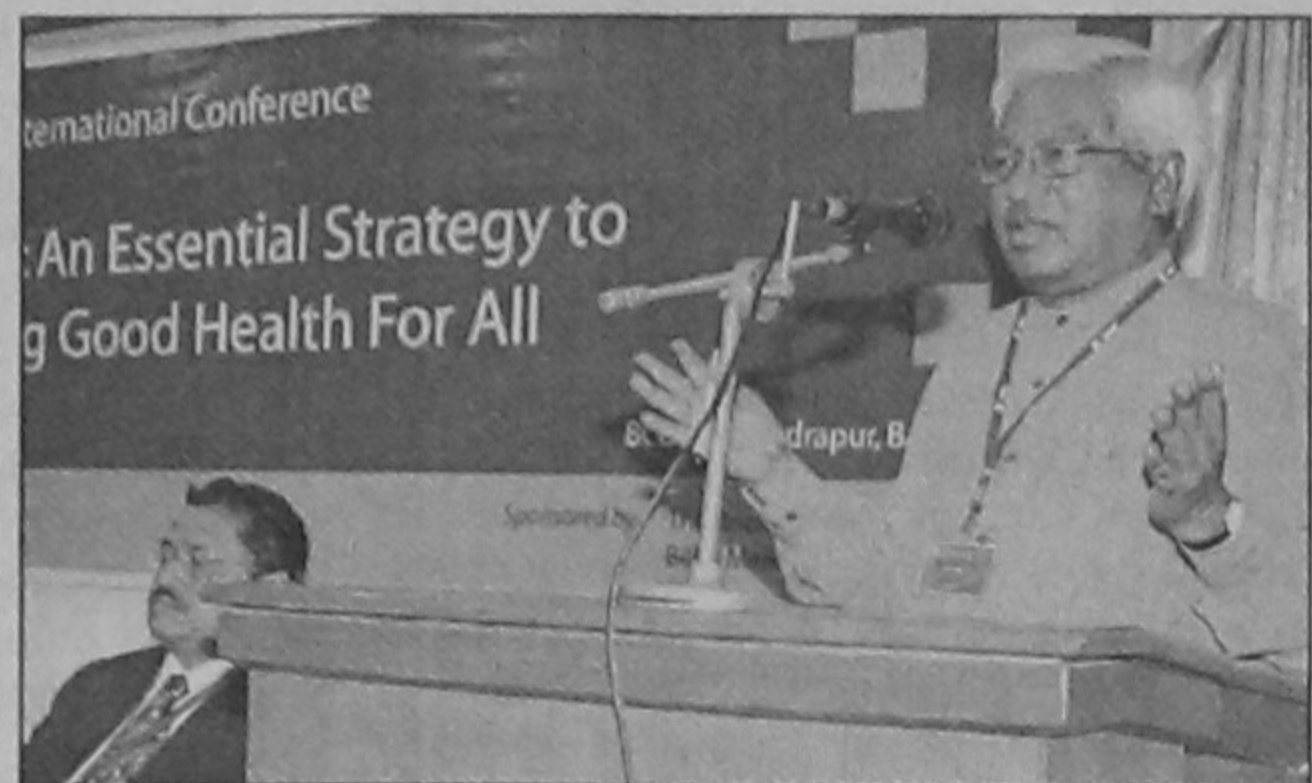
STAFF CORRESPONDENT Speakers at a discussion yesterday called on the government to ensure representation of the people with disabilities in the parliament to uphold their equal rights.

5th, 8th amendments have created religious bias

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Speaker at a book launching programme yesterday said the 5th and 8th amendments to the constitution have created religious discrimination among the people, which have tremendously affected the spirit of secularism and ideology of liberation war.

Tac cancels its regular press briefing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) yesterday cancelled its regular press briefing as Chairman Justice Habibur Rahman Khan was busy in finishing all pending works before the expiry of the Supreme Court (SC) stay order.



Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed speaks at the inaugural session of a four-day international conference at the Brac Centre for Development Management (BCDM) at Rajendrapur yesterday.

Country to achieve MDG in health by 2015

Says Fazle Hasan Abed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Bangladesh would certainly be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) in health by 2015, said Founder and Chairperson of Brac Fazle Hasan Abed yesterday.

He was addressing the inaugural session of a four-day international conference on 'Scaling Up: An Essential Strategy to Attaining Good Health for All' at the Brac Centre for Development Management (BCDM) at Rajendrapur.

HC starts delivery of judgement on EPO, EPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The High Court (HC) yesterday started delivering judgement on a writ petition that challenged the legality of some provisions of Emergency Powers Ordinance (EPO) 2007 and Emergency Power Rules (EPR) 2007, stating those who deny some fundamental rights of the people, including the rights to obtain bail in cases filed under these provisions and rules.

SC UPHOLDS HC ORDER Detention of Babar illegal

UNB, Dhaka The Supreme Court yesterday upheld High Court order declaring illegal the detention of former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar, turning down a government plea for holding him behind bars.

HC order to produce Humayra before court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The High Court (HC) yesterday directed for fourth time the parents and uncle of Humayra Abdin, an expatriate trainee doctor in London, to produce her before the court on December 14 in connection with a habeas corpus petition.

Appeal for help

METRO DESK Firoz Khan, news editor of the weekly Chuadanga Darpan and Chuadanga correspondent of the daily Janata, has been suffering from heart disease, says a press release.

Make pledges to bring war criminals to book

Rights activists tell political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Fourteen human rights and development activists called on the political parties to pledge in their election manifestoes to ensure the trial of war criminals and others responsible for violations of human rights and to stop political recruitment of judges.

Extend help in transition to elected govt

President urges all UNB, Dhaka President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon all to extend their wholehearted cooperation to country's transition to an elected government through general election.

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT Fourteen human rights and development activists called on the political parties to pledge in their election manifestoes to ensure the trial of war criminals and others responsible for violations of human rights and to stop political recruitment of judges.

They also demanded that the political parties make announcement before the elections that they would take steps to make state-run television and radio autonomous and set up separate cells for women, children, indigenous people, Dalits and the working class at the National Human Rights Commission to ensure their rights.

Extend help in transition to elected govt

President urges all

UNB, Dhaka President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon all to extend their wholehearted cooperation to country's transition to an elected government through general election.

He made the call while addressing the graduation ceremony of the National Defence Course (NDC) and Armed Forces War Course (AFWC) 2008 at the National Defence College at Mirpur in the city.

Commandant of the NDC Lt Gen Mohammad Aminul Karim gave the welcome speech on the occasion.

Forty-five senior army and civil officials, including 22 officers from 11 countries India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, Myanmar, China, Malaysia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Sudan completed the NDC course.

Twenty-two senior officials from Bangladesh army, navy and air force participated in AFWC 2008.

Since its inception, the college has conducted 10 national defence courses and eight AFWCs.

So far 89 army, 27 navy, 26 air force, 69 civil service and 56 overseas members from 12 countries have successfully graduated in the National Defence Courses.

The president congratulated the graduating officers and hoped that they would contribute more to nation-building activities through their knowledge and professionalism.

He urged them to utilise the knowledge they gained from these courses for the enhancement of the security and development of the nation.

Termining the graduating foreign officers goodwill ambassadors, President Iajuddin said, "As goodwill ambassadors, I believe, the cordial relations between Bangladesh and your countries would be further strengthened and deepened through you."

The function was attended by senior civil and military officials, including Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed, Naval Chief Vice-Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam and Air Chief Air Marshal S M Ziaur Rahman.

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JMB sends leaflet, CD to newspaper office in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna Outlawed Islamist outfit 'Jamaat ul Mujahideen Bangladesh' (JMB) has sent a leaflet and a CD to two addresses in Pabna by registered mail.

The Prothom Alo office in Pabna received a parcel containing the two items on Tuesday. The office of the president of Pabna Chamber of Commerce and Industry also received a similar parcel, sources said.

In the leaflet, JMB called for destroying anti-Islamic forces. "The Jehadi Kafela is committed to establishing Islamic rule by destroying oppressors, exploiters and dishonest leaders," the leaflet reads. It also blamed the media for publishing "wrong information" about JMB.

The CD contains footage of activities of JMB militants. Pabna-based staff reporter of the Prothom Alo filed a general diary with the police yesterday. The leaflet and the CD were also handed over to the police.

The police said they have taken the matter seriously and launched an investigation into it. "We have already informed the higher authorities of the matter," said Md Iqbal Shaif, officer-in-charge of Pabna Police Station.

Aziz gets addl charge

UNB, Dhaka Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz, NDC, has been given the additional charge of the principal secretary to the Chief Adviser's Office until further appointment to the post, said an official announcement yesterday.

'Prevention of burn injuries can reduce mortality rate'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Speakers at a training programme yesterday said learning about the prevention and management in burn injuries can reduce the mortality and disability rate caused by injuries.

The training on 'Emergency management of severe burns (EMSB)', designed to help the health professionals with the ability to provide effective treatment within the first 24 hours after an injury, was organised by Interplast Australia and New Zealand (IANZ) in partnership with Centre for Injury Prevention and Research in Bangladesh (CIPRB) at a city hotel.

Speaking as the chief guest, Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett said, "Training medical professionals on the effective management of burns is a crucial step to overcome the deficiency at an available care."

Inaugurating the programme, Prof Peter Maitz, on behalf of IANZ and Australia and New Zealand Burns Association (ANZBA), drove home about the course and how it focuses on the first crucial 24 hours following an injury.

CRPB Executive Director Dr AKM Fazlur Rahman gave an overview of the burn injury scenario in the country while presenting the statistics that females are the most vulnerable to the burn injuries and most accidents originate from kitchen.

WEATHER TODAY Dry weather likely UNB, Dhaka Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

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