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Food supply boost pledged

G8 unveils \$20b food security fund for developing world

AFP, Laquila

Barack Obama and fellow rich nation leaders unveiled a 20 billion dollar fund to help feed the developing world on Friday as they were urged to help the poor survive the downturn.

On the last day of the G8 summit in Italy, the US president and his peers tried to answer criticism they had turned their backs on those most vulnerable to the global economic crisis and held talks with African leaders.

As Obama prepared to embark on his first visit to sub-Saharan Africa, delegates said he played a key role in persuading around 30 countries to bankroll a fund aimed at helping smallholder farmers increase crop yields.

It was initially expected the fund would total 15 billion dollars, but Obama said that figure had now reached 20 billion.

The United States will reportedly stump up around 3.5 billion dollars of the cash and Japan and the European Union between three and four billion each.

"We have committed to investing 20 billion

in food security, agricultural development programmes to help fight world hunger. This is in addition to the aid we provide," said Obama.

"Going into the meeting we had agreed to 15 billion. We exceeded that mark and obtained an additional five billion of hard commitments."

The fund signifies a shift in focus by richer nations away from food aid towards practical help for local agriculture.

"We believe that the purpose of aid must be to create the conditions where it's no longer needed to help people become self-sufficient, provide for their families, and lift their standards of living," said Obama.

Kanayo Nwanze, head of UN agricultural agency IFAD, was among those who welcomed the launch, saying the plan represented a "shift from food aid -- which is like providing medication after the child is ill -- to providing assistance to help the countries... produce food by themselves."

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said there was an urgent need for action to combat

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The generator of this building, which houses a diagnostic centre, in Jamal Khan of Chittagong belches dark plumes of smoke on pedestrians and patients of the centre whenever there is a power cut.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Sirajganj embankment collapses

Thousands trying hard to repair the damage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Around 200 metres of Sirajganj town protection embankment went into the gorge of river Jamuna yesterday due to onrush of water from upstream, threatening the town.

Witnesses said river erosion took a serious turn at Swashanghat point in the morning and the portion of the embankment on the western bank of the river collapsed within moments.

Fearing danger, people living near the embankment started running to and fro following the embankment collapse.

People immediately brought out a procession and went to the office of Water Development Board (WDB) to protest at the sudden collapse. They blamed irregu-

larities by a section of WDB officials for the incident.

Hearing the news, WDB officials including Executive Engineer Nizamul Haque Bhuiyan went there and started work to protect the remaining portion of the embankment from erosion. But their attempt went in vain because of strong current in the river.

Thousands of people from the town later joined hands with WDB men and placed sand bags, bricks, stones, blocks and other materials at the point of erosion to protect the remaining portion of embankment from erosion. Officials of the district administration and members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), police, fire fighters and the army also joined the work.

People living near the erosion area shifted their houses and other belongings to a safer place fearing further erosion.

Deputy Commissioner Humayun Kabir, Police Super Mosharraf Hossain, higher officials of Rab and the army visited the spot and asked their men to work for protecting the town from the sudden disaster.

Leaders and activists of different political parties also went there and joined hands with the people.

While contacted, DC Humayun Kabir said they are not free from the risk though the situation has improved a little. He however said that WDB officials did not inform him about any possibility of danger.

Erosion also takes a serious turn in five

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After this large section of the Sirajganj Town Protection Embankment went into the Jamuna yesterday, thousands of people with help of personnel from the army, Rab, the fire and police departments, and the district administration try to repair it.

PHOTO: GOLAM MOSTAFA JIBON

FIRST TEST UPDATE

Bangladesh were struggling on 141 for six in 62.3 overs in their first innings after lunch on the second day. Mushfiqur Rahim on 15 and Mahmudullah on 9 were the not out batsmen.

| Prayer Timing | | |
|---------------|--------|------|
| July 11 | | |
| Azan | Jamaat | |
| Fajr | 5-10 | 5-45 |
| Zohr | 1-45 | 2-15 |
| Asr | 6-00 | 6-15 |
| Maghrib | 7-55 | 8-00 |
| Esha | 9-17 | 9-45 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Thousands flee riot-hit western China

Up to 800 people may have died in unrest

AFP, Urumqi

Thousands of fearful people poured into bus and train stations yesterday to escape China's Urumqi city after deadly ethnic unrest, as several mosques were ordered shut for the main Muslim day of prayer.

Authorities said they had put on extra bus services out of the capital of China's remote Xinjiang region, but demand far outstripped seats and scalpers told AFP they were charging up to five times the normal face price for tickets.

"It is just too risky to stay here. We are scared of the violence," said Xu Qiugen, 23, a construction worker from central China who had been living in Urumqi for five years and was trying to buy a bus ticket out with his wife.

The exodus follows unrest that began Sunday when Muslim Uighurs, who have long complained about repression under Chinese rule, took to the streets in their thousands to protest, and security forces moved in to clamp down.

The Chinese government said 156 people

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KCC drive razes cop's illegal house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna City Corporation tore down a section of a police inspector's house built illegally on Nirala canal in Khulna.

Police Inspector Moniruzzaman owns the three-storey building and the KCC demolished a part of it during its ongoing drive against canal encroachers Thursday.

The building was erected when Moniruzzaman was the officer-in-charge of Dumuria

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Matia warns against poor job of agri officials

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Upazila agriculture officials of northern region of the country will face grave consequences if the production target suffers a setback due to their negligence.

Agriculture Minister Matia

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

CNG station staff killed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals shot dead an engineer of a CNG conversion station in the city's Paltan last night.

Police said two criminals opened fire on Mamun, 45, at around 11:30pm and

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Govt to recruit 6,000 doctors, 3,000 nurses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government would soon appoint 6,000 doctors and 3,000 nurses in public hospitals to address the acute crisis of healthcare personnel in the country, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday.

"We have already decided to appoint around 6,000 doctors considering people's healthcare," she said addressing a reunion programme held on the occasion of 64th founding anniversary of Dhaka Medical College.

"I have suggested that the health minister appoint as many doctors possible on ad hoc basis and they will be regularised later through a BCS examination," she said, adding that the

nation's need is more important than the process of appointment. She termed appointments through the Public Service Commission a time consuming process.

"The appointment of 3,000 nurses in posts that have been lying vacant for a long time will be done soon on special arrangements," she said, adding that the government would build hostels for medical students and quarters for doctors.

She urged all to work for the people's welfare refraining from looking at the work from a political point of view.

Hasina said construction of the second Dhaka Medical College Hospital with 600 beds would start soon. She directed the authorities

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Ferry crisis reaches nerve

Hundreds of vehicles stranded on both sides of Padma

STAR REPORT

Hundreds of vehicles on either side of river Padma remained stranded for hours due to ferry crisis on Paturia-Daulatdia and Mawa-Kawrakandi routes causing immense suffering to thousands of passengers.

Six out of 13 Paturia-Daulatdia route ferries have been sent to Narayanganj dock for renovation while timeworn ferries on Mawa-Kawrakandi route are carrying fewer vehicles than their capacity, sources said.

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Mother, son stabbed

Tk 5.25 lakh snatched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of four muggers stabbed a woman and her son and snatched Tk 5.25 lakh from them yesterday morning in the city's Rampura.

Victims Hena Khanam, 40, and her son Mohammad Hossain, 18, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Khilgaon police said the muggers intercepted the

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অবৈধ বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারকারীদের

সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ অভিযান চলছে

- সারাদেশে অবৈধ বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারকারীদের সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ অভিযান চলছে।
- নিজের বৈধ সংযোগ থেকে প্রতিবেশীকে সংযোগ প্রদান/সাইড কানেকশন দেয়াও সম্পূর্ণ বেআইনী।
- অবৈধ সংযোগ নেয়া থেকে বিরত থাকুন।
- বিদ্যুৎ আইন অনুযায়ী অবৈধভাবে বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহার দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ।
- বিদ্যুৎ আইনে অবৈধ বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারকারীদের সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নসহ জেল জরিমানার বিধান রয়েছে।
- অবৈধ বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহার থেকে বিরত থাকুন।
- সময়মত বিদ্যুৎ বিল পরিশোধ করুন।
- বিদ্যুৎ সাশ্রয়ে সচেত হোন।



বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-০৭(৬)/২০০৯-২০১০

জিডি-৩৩৪৭