

Involve NRBs in implementing dev projects

Speakers tell conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should create funds with remittances from Non-Resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) to implement large development projects such as Padma bridge, thereby reducing dependence on donors, speakers at a conference said yesterday.

They also called for investing the remittances into productive sectors.

The International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions (INAFI), Bangladesh and Netherlands-based Bangladesh Support Group (BASUG) organised the conference on 'Harnessing development potential of migration: Enhance formal channel of remittances transfer and productive investment of remittances' at the Brac Centre Inn in the city.

The conference is aimed at raising mass awareness about transferring remittance in proper channels and implementing them in productive sector, Atiqun Nabi, executive director of INAFI Asia and Bangladesh, explained.

Speaking as the chief guest, Governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr Atiur Rahman said Bangladesh is the second largest remittance earning country,

but its economical development is not satisfactory yet.

It is because the major proportion of the remittances remains unproductive, he added.

Dr Atiur also emphasised the need for developing the worker's skills in diversified sectors, saying that there is still acute shortage of skilled workers in the shipping and nursing sectors.

Director General of Bureau of Manpower and Employment Training (BMET) Masud Ahmed said family members of most migrant workers are reluctant to invest in the productive sector, as they feel insecure in investing the money.

Most families even don't know the secure ways of investing their money, he said and stressed the need to make them aware of various facilities for secure investments.

Project Manager (Remittance) of INAFI Bangladesh Rashed Al Hasan gave a presentation on BASUG-INAFI Bangladesh Remittance Project.

Ghulam Mustafa, president of BAIRA, Syed Mustafa Kamal, country manager of Western Union, and Bikash Chowdhury, president of BASUG, also spoke.

Five to die for killing prostitute

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced five people to death for killing Jesmin, a prostitute, after rape on August 5 in 2006 in Munshiganj district.

The convicts are Swapan Pradhan, Bapji Bepari,

Mohammad Hossain, Nazrul Miah and Milon.

Judge Mohammad Mohsin Mollah of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-2 gave the verdict in presence of the convicts.

The court also acquitted Kohinor as the charge brought against her was not proved.

AFTERMATH OF RAIN



PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL & AMRAN HOSSAIN

(Clockwise from top left) A room at Kazipara in Mirpur still remains inundated yesterday, a day after overnight downpour battered the city. A woman does household chores as rainwater is yet to recede from her house at Tejgunipara. Two girls waded through knee-deep water at Tejgunipara. A man put wet pillows and quilts on the tin-roof of his house at Kazipara to dry them; and a girl spreads rice on the rooftop of a house at Kazipara to dry.



Winners of the Best Article Award 2009 pose with the guests at the prize giving ceremony at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are ICRC Incoming Head of Delegation Christoph Vogt, ICRC Head of Mission Finn Ruda, Information Minister Abdul Kalam Azad, Commonwealth Journalist Association President Hassan Shahriar and DRUP President Shamim Ahmad.

PHOTO: STAR

Four Star reporters win ICRC award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four reporters of The Daily Star won the Best Article Award 2009, conferred by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU), for their outstanding reports on humanitarian issues.

Three more journalists from other newspapers also won the award. The organisers had invited the entries for the award under the theme 'Protecting Rights of Victims: Humanitarian Issues'.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad gave away the awards to the winners at a prize giving ceremony at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. The award carries a crest, certificate and money.

In English category, staff writer Elita Karim of The Star, a weekly magazine of The Daily Star, won the first prize for her report headlined 'Back from hell'; The Daily Star staff correspondent Porimol Palma bagged the second prize for his report, 'Shattered dreams of migrant workers'; and The Daily Star senior reporter Pinaki Roy received the third prize for his report, '60,000 Mros made gypsies of the hills'.

Under special category, The Daily Star staff correspondent Emran Hossain won a prize for his report, 'Far away from spotlight'; and The New Nation staff reporter Syful Islam bagged a prize for his report, 'Postmortem of 'crossfire': IGP, RAB DG say their members act in self-defence'.

In Bangla category, The Daily Azadi staff reporter Mahmud Moni secured the first prize for his report, 'Udbastu Narider Dukkher Dinlipi' (Diary of pains of women refugees); and The Daily Amar Desh staff reporter Jasim Uddin Sarker bagged the second prize for his report, 'Paribesh Udbastu Bosti: Kutubdia Praay 42,000 Manusher Manobetar Jiban' (Slum of climate refugees: About 42,000 people living in inhuman conditions in Kutubdia).

2 to die for killing NSU teacher

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced two people to death and three others to life in jail for killing a North South University teacher in September 2007.

The convicts with death are

Mohammad Liton Mallick and Mosharraf Hossain while Moktar Hossain, Mohammad Jahangir and driver Mohammad Alal were given life in jail.

Dewan Rahat Karim, a teacher of Accounting Department of North South University, was killed by a gang

of robbers at about 8:00pm on September 25 of 2007 in the city's Gulshan area.

Judge Masdar Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 handed down the sentence in presence of the convicts in a packed courtroom.

VICTORY

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Well done, cricketers!

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CREDIT RATING REPORT

	Long Term	Short Term
Surveillance Rating 2008	AA	ST-1
Surveillance Rating 2007	AA	ST-1
Outlook	Stable	
Date of Declaration	June 30, 2009	

Credit Rating Information and Services Limited (CRISL) has reaffirmed the Long Term Rating of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited to "AA" (Pronounced as Double A) and Short Term Rating to "ST-1".

The Bank rated "AA" (High Safety) in the long term is adjudged to be of high quality, offer higher safety and have high credit quality. This level of rating indicates a corporate entity with a sound credit profile and without significant problems. Risks are modest and may vary slightly from time to time because of economic conditions.

The Bank rated "ST-1" (Highest Grade) in the short term is considered to have highest certainty of timely payment. Short-term liquidity including internal fund generation is very strong and access to alternative sources of funds is outstanding. Safety is almost risk free like Government short-term obligations.

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