

Graft suspects

FROM PAGE 1
it would have to make a new provision in the budget for that purpose, finance ministry sources said.

A government agency, which was very active during the caretaker government's rule, collected the money from individuals arrested on charges of corruption and money laundering and deposited it to the exchequer.

Names of a few of these 16 institutions and persons appeared several times in the media as they deposited money on different dates. Two of them deposited money in foreign currencies.

Bashundhara Group and its sister concern East West Property Development deposited Tk 256 crore in five instalments.

James Finley deposited Tk 238 crore in two instalments.

AB Bank deposited Tk 190.41 crore and the AB Bank Foundation gave Tk 32.13 crore.

Swadesh Properties deposited Tk 9 crore, Hosaf Group Tk 15 crore, Eastern Housing (Islam Group) Tk 35 crore, Partex Group Tk 15 crore and Elite Paints Tk 25.44 crore, all in two instalments.

Tk 8 crore was realised from Concord Engineering and Construction, Tk 7 crore from Concord Real Estate and Building Products, Tk 1 crore from Asian City, Tk 6.41 crore from Pink City, Tk 19.45 crore from Bangladesh Ship Breakers Association, Tk 1.30 crore from Amin Mohammad Group, Tk

4,000MW

FROM PAGE 16
after holding a meeting with the representatives of Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (IDCOL) at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) yesterday.

Refuting the press reports that there has been no step taken for generating more electricity in last one year, the finance minister said, "Much time is needed to complete the process for setting up a big power plant."

"We have completed the preparation. We will be able to fulfil the target of power generation as envisaged in our election pledge."

Muhith said power crisis is one of the major causes of prevailing sluggish investment. The government is alert to take necessary steps to augment power generation.

Severely criticising the reports published in a section of the press questioning the honesty of the prime minister's energy adviser Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, the finance minister said, "The propaganda against the energy adviser is being unleashed to thwart the development initiatives of the present government."

Some political quarters were also involved in the propaganda against the energy adviser, Muhith alleged.

Earlier IDCOL, a fully government-owned public limited company and a non-bank financial institution, paid Tk 6 crore to the government as dividend for the year 2008-09.

ERD Secretary and IDCOL Chairman Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan and IDCOL Executive Director and CEO Ismail Sharif handed over the dividend cheque to the finance minister.

Bus fare row

FROM PAGE 1
Officer-in-Charge of Shahbagh Police Station Rezaul Karim said around 15 students of DU vandalised the ticket counters and the vehicles parked in and running through the area.

"We picked some of the students to prevent them from continuing the destruction and later freed them," the OC said.

Officials at DU Medical Centre said they referred two students to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after providing them with first aid.

But DMCH sources said no DU students were admitted to the hospital till 7:00pm.

Mohammad Rubel, a staff of Metro Paribahan, said the employees attacked the students for trying to get on a bus of Super Paribahan without paying the fare. About half an hour after the attack, a group of 15 to 20 students came and rampaged through the street.

Employees at the bus counters in Shahbagh alleged that earlier on Monday, some students realised Tk 20,000 from a bus owner saying that pickpockets took away the same amount from one student while being on the bus on Motijheel-Cantonment route.

"The bus employees were angry with the students since Monday and the attempts by students to travel without paying bus fare might have caused the attack," the OC said.

23.80 crore from MGH Group, Tk 32.50 crore from Amin Mohammad Foundation, Tk 39 crore from National Bank and Tk 2.50 crore from Sagunta Housing.

Salimul Haq Kamal deposited Tk 20 crore for Lutfuzzaman Babar. Babar had taken the amount as bribe from a big businessman when he was the state minister for home.

Businessman Noor Ali deposited money in two instalments—Tk 13.54 crore in foreign currency and Tk 13 crore in local currency. Md Shahjahan of Kabir Steel deposited Tk 7 crore.

Rezaul Karim deposited Tk 16.92 crore, Abu Sufian Tk 14 crore, Shawkat Ali Chowdhury Tk 6 crore, Wakil Ahmed Tk 16 crore, Lutfuzzaman Babar Tk 15 crore, Nurul Islam Babul of Jamuna Group Tk 30 crore in two instalments. Mamun Tk 20.41 crore, Manik Tk 4 crore, Parveen Shikder Tk 3 crore and Abdul Amin Mintoo Tk 2.20 crore.

The list also has an anonymous entry for Tk 90 crore deposited in four instalments, one in foreign currency worth about Tk 11 crore.

Iran militiamen attack offices of pro-reform cleric

AFP, Tehran

Around 1,000 members of Iran's Basij Islamic militia attacked offices of pro-reform cleric Grand Ayatollah Yusuf Sanei in the central shrine city of Qom, a reformist website reported yesterday.

The plainclothes militiamen broke the windows of Sanei's office and insulted and beat up his staff, Norooznews.ir, the website of leading reformist party the Islamic Iran Participation Front, said.

They also put up posters of Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei, who has been a staunch defender of hard line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's controversial June re-election and who ordered a post-election crackdown on opposition protests.

Police sided with the militia and prevented Sanei's supporters from defending his office, the website said.

The report came a day after the funeral of Iran's most revered pro-reform cleric Grand Ayatollah Hosseini Ali Montazeri, which saw clashes between police and stone-throwing opposition protesters.

Montazeri's family has decided to call off the traditional mourning ceremonies for his father normally stipulated by Shiite Islam for fear of further disturbances, another opposition website, Rakesabz.net, quoted his son Ahmad as saying.

The ceremonies for the third and seventh evenings of the death of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri will not be held due to security issues," he said.

The family took the decision after plainclothes militiamen attacked the offices of both Montazeri and his son Ahmad following Monday's funeral, the website said.

Project sees

FROM PAGE 1
from Malaysian embassy in Bangladesh and Turkey.

In the latest shift, the committee also considered the additional money that Flora Telecom quoted in its bidding, said a source.

As per financial evaluation, IRIS will get about Tk 600 crore against Flora's nearly Tk 960 crore for implementing the project in five years.

Earlier, the committee on November 23 recommended IRIS as the lowest bidder that fulfilled tender requirements.

The decision was made despite some loopholes in the company's tender document.

However, the committee in its evaluation report suggested that Flora Telecom Ltd be given the job if IRIS expresses inability.

On December 8, the same committee held a meeting to re-evaluate its prior decision and declared the Malaysian company non-responsive considering the loopholes and some allegations against it.

The committee did not know about the Turkish government's ban on IRIS Corporation Berhad for two years. The company, however, did not mention this in its tender proposal, which is a violation of condition of the tender," says the re-evaluation report that recommended Flora Telecom Ltd as the other lone responsive bidder.

He, however, said there must be full implementation of the law and strict vigilance to protect the country's forests and green places.

Saber, also a member of the parliamentary standing committee on forest and environment ministry, said there is lack of forest policing and manpower. Satellites could be utilised for forest vigilance, which has been introduced in different countries.

Same offence

FROM PAGE 16

Three alleged accomplices are still being sought by police.

The crime was committed after Fazela Bibi's parents refused to give her hand in marriage to Sher Mohammad Qadir said.

Islamic laws were introduced in Pakistan during the military regime of General Ziaul Haq in the 1980s.

The BBC's M Ilyas Khan in Islamabad says punishments prescribed under the laws have rarely been awarded, and never carried out.

Pakistani human rights activists have long campaigned for more to be done to stop attacks against women, which often include facial disfigurement.

However, they also disagree with the type of punishment handed out in Lahore, correspondents say.

Tobacco

FROM PAGE 1

"Overall economic loss due to tobacco use is very high in fact," said Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhal Haque while speaking at the launching ceremony of the report as a chief guest.

Use of tobacco is directly linked to health and it is responsible for different non-communicable diseases, he said adding that the previous report of the WHO in 2004 revealed that around 57,000 people die every year in the country due to the diseases related to tobacco.

However, the government is thinking of making it mandatory to print pictorial health warnings on the packets of bidi cigarettes, he added.

The government recently includes the messages of harmful effects of tobacco in the school textbook curriculum to create awareness in the society, the government authorities said.

Among others, Prime Minister's Adviser Syed Modasser Ali, Health Secretary Sheikh Altaf Ali, Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Prof Shah Monir Hossain, Additional Secretary of the ministry of Education Rajia Begum, WHO Country representative to Bangladesh Duangvadee Sungkhobol, Associate Director of CDC Atlanta Samira Asma were also present.

Imposing additional taxes on tobacco production, amendment to the Tobacco Control Act and its implementation, anti-smoking media messages and pictorial health warnings on all tobacco products were recommended following the study.

No bail

FROM PAGE 1

ministries concerned to take legal actions against people responsible regardless of their political affiliations and identities.

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad also reaffirmed The Daily Star that the prime minister has given the directives.

A group of influential and powerful people chopped down about 20,000 trees in Pirojganj upazila of Rangpur on Saturday and Sunday nights.

Last month, a group of influential people including a son of a ruling party lawmaker had as many as 15,000 trees cut down in Sitakunda of Chittagong. They also felled some 5,000 more trees across a half-a-kilometre stretch of the forest belt at Sonaichari coast under Sitakunda upazila.

In September, at least 30,000 Jhau (tamarisk) trees were chopped down by a section of local influential people in Teknaf beach of Cox's Bazar and the forest department remained a silent spectator.

Azad said the prime minister sincerely wants to preserve and develop Bangladesh's forests and green places understanding the consequences of climate change.

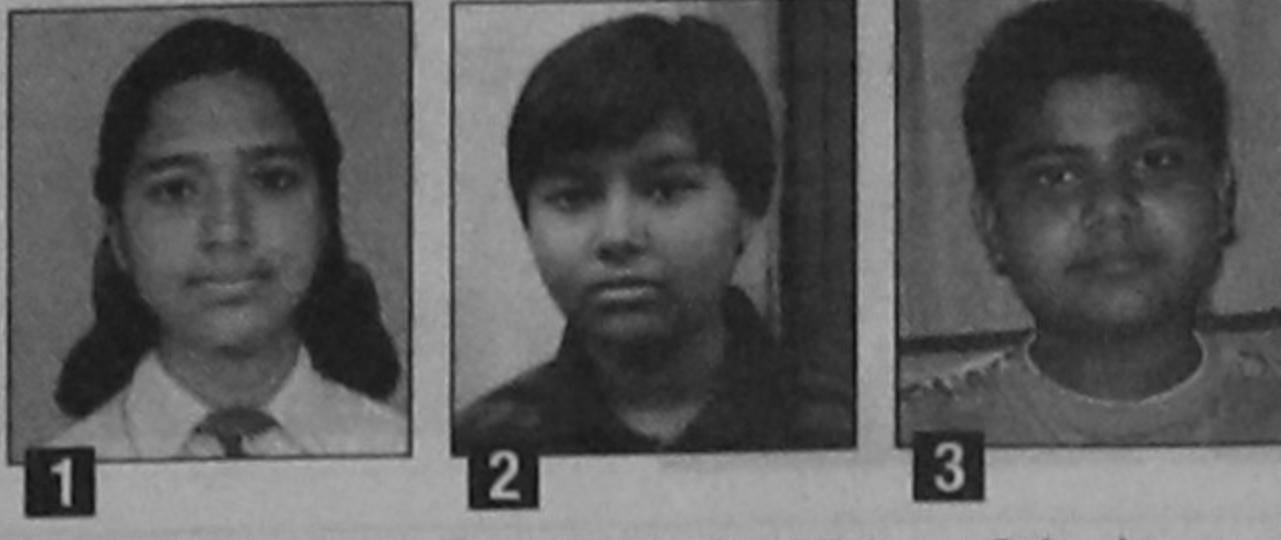
Talking to The Daily Star, State Minister for Forest and Environment Hasan Mahmud said the government is determined to take tough actions against those who are felling trees and even if ruling-party men were involved, they would not be spared.

Chief of the all-party parliamentary group on climate change and environment Saber Hossain Chowdhury said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's commitment to protect Bangladesh's environment would be made clear through the new law.

He told The Daily Star he studied around five to six hours a day. A house tutor, his schoolteachers along with his mother helped him a lot in achieving the result. He obtained 589 marks.

Saber, also a member of the parliamentary standing committee on forest and environment ministry, said there is lack of forest policing and manpower. Satellites could be utilised for forest vigilance, which has been introduced in different countries.

Sources in the evaluation committee said the changes were made following an instruction of the home ministry. "But all these efforts are to select the most capable firm," said one of the members of the evaluation committee.



Viqarunnisa

FROM PAGE 16

Of the top ten institutions, five are in Dhaka city while four in Chittagong and one in Khulna division.

National Ideal School at Motijheel in Dhaka secured fourth position while Bangladesh Navy School and College in Chittagong fifth, Mohammadpur Preparatory High School in Dhaka sixth, Comilla Modern School under Adarsha Sadar in Comilla seventh, Bangladesh Mahila Samity Girls High School in Chittagong eighth, Dr Kastagir Govt Girls High School in Chittagong ninth and Khulna Zilla School tenth position.

A total of 1,516 students achieved first division from Viqarunnisa Noon School and College while 1,126 from Monipur High School and 962 from Ideal School and College.

A total of 498 students achieved first division from National Ideal School while 425 from Bangladesh Navy School and College, 416 from Mohammadpur Preparatory High School, 393 from Comilla Modern School, 330 from Bangladesh Mahila Samity Girls High School, 325 from Dr Kastagir Govt Girls High School and 311 from Khulna Zilla School.

Students from now on there will be no separate scholarship exams. Students must pass the terminal exams to get enrolled in class-VI.

Starting on November 21, exams on six papers were held in just three days.

The subject-wise stats show that students did well in Paribesh Parichiti Samaj (social science) with 99.46 percent passing while they did not do that well in Mathematics and English as the pass percentages in these subjects are 90.57 and 94 respectively.

Dipannita Tithi of Arpara Shishnagar Model Primary School and Hasin Tanveer of RK Govt Primary School of Tangail secured second and third positions respectively in the primary education terminal examination.

PHOTO: COURTESY

New primary exam

FROM PAGE 1

girls—showed up.

The government, however, granted six percent grace to increase the percentage of passed students saying it was done since the examination was held for the first time in the country.

Sadia Shikder, a student of Monohardi Model Govt Primary School in Monohardi upazila of Narsingdi, secured the first spot in the country obtaining 593/98.83 percent.

Dipannita Tithi of Arpara Shishnagar Model Primary School in Kaliganj of Jhenaidah and Hasin Tanveer of RK Government Primary School of Tangail secured second and third positions scoring 592 and 589 respectively.

Other top 10 students are: Silvia Mahmud Brishti of Bindubashini Govt Girls High School in Tangail, fourth place, Fahim Tajwar of Govt Laboratory High School in Rajshahi, fifth place, Sheikh Fazle Rabbi of Chhahibasa Govt Primary School in Narsingdi, sixth place, Moon Islam of Monohardi Model Govt Primary School, seventh place, Mufiqa Bhuiyan of Shamsul Haq Khan School and College in Dhaka, eighth place, Sadia Afrin Shamsi of Victoria High School in Moulvibazar, ninth place, and Nurjan Tansuna Hridy of Bindubashini Govt Girls High School, 10th place.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afasal Amin briefed newsmen around 3:00pm about the results at his secretariat office.

He said they have tried to make the quality of primary education better with these exams.

Asked about failed students, Amin said on an average 37 students failed in each centre and these students will be allowed to sit for next year's exam.

He said students would be provided mark sheets and testimonials by December 30 and they would need those to get admitted to class-VI in their desired schools.

State Minister Motiur Hossain said the government would award the best 10 schools and students for their outstanding results.

Asked about the grace, he said, "Some 82 percent students passed without the grace and they increased the number of passed with the six percent grace."

Asked about failed students, Amin said on an average 37 students failed in each centre and these students will be allowed to sit for next year's exam.

Asked about the grace, he said, "Some 82 percent students passed without the grace and they increased the number of passed with the six percent grace."

Asked about failed students, Amin said on an average 37 students failed in each centre and these students will be allowed to sit for next year's exam.

Asked about the grace, he said, "Some 82 percent students passed without the grace and they increased the number of passed with the six percent grace."

Asked about failed students, Amin said on an average 37 students failed in each centre and these students will be allowed to sit for next year's exam.

Asked about the grace, he said, "Some 82 percent students passed without the grace and they increased the number of passed with the six percent grace."

Asked about failed students, Amin said on an average 37 students failed in each centre and these students will be allowed to sit for next year's exam.

Asked about the grace, he said, "Some 82 percent students passed without the grace and they increased the number of passed with the six percent grace."

Asked about failed students, Amin said on an average 37 students failed in each centre and these students will be allowed to sit for next year's exam.