

# Tk 15cr for development of each constituency this year

## Nanok tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will spend Tk 15 crore for local development of each of the country's 300 constituencies in the current fiscal year, announced State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanok yesterday.

"On completion of those development projects, we will review the projects and will determine whether the allocations will continue," he said replying to lawmakers' queries regarding whether similar allocations will be made every financial year through the government's five-year tenure.

In the face of the lawmakers' repeated demands for fund allocations for development activities in their constituencies, the government took up the project, and the LGRD ministry sent letters to them seeking their development plans.

Ruling Awami League lawmaker Maj (ret) Rafiqul Islam expressed his disappointment at the slow pace of implementation of development proposals.

# BANGLADESH AND LIBYA FORM COMMITTEE Joint body to manage recruitment process

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Libya have formed a joint committee to manage the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers and ensure their welfare in the North African country.

which met Libyan ministers for labour, agriculture, health and foreign affairs. The team returned on January 16 after a four-day visit.

## EXTORTION 2 policemen sued

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A vendor filed a case yesterday with a Dhaka court against two policemen on charges of extortion of Tk 60,000 and beating him in November last year.

## KHULNA POWER PROJECT Chinese company makes lowest offer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chinese company Shanghai Electric Co made the lowest "read out" financial offer for the Khulna 150 megawatt (MW) peaking power project.

For the Sirajganj project Cobra bid \$102 million. Chinese company Shan Dong, CMEC and Indian Bhel had also bid for the project.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia visits injured President of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Sultan Salahuddin Tuku at Islami Central Hospital at Kakrail in the city yesterday.

## Three top cops get promotion

DMP, SB, CID chiefs made additional inspectors general

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday made Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque, Special Branch (SB) chief Zaved Patwary and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) chief Shahzaman Raj additional inspectors general (AIGs) of police.

The police officials are now on their current duties as the AIGs.

## BISHWA IJTEMA FROM JANUARY 22 Foreign devotees start coming

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several thousand foreigners have already arrived in the capital to take part in the three-day Bishwa Ijtema, the second largest congregation of the Muslims, on the bank of the river Turag scheduled to be held from January 22.

Meanwhile, the law enforcement agencies were seen busy yesterday for installing CCTVs and other security instruments in and around the ground.

The organisers expect that at least 15,000 foreigners will attend the congregation from 105 countries. Last year, it was around 14,000 foreigners from 85 countries.

## PROSHIKA HEAD OFFICE Processions, rallies banned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday imposed a ban on any kind of gathering, rally and procession around Proshika head office in Mirpur.

Police took control over the head office and drove the hired gang that tookover Proshika on behalf of its former chairman Qazi Faruque Ahmed. However, police are yet to hand the office over to the authorities.

Several hundred Proshika employees yesterday continued the sit-in for the seventh consecutive day since the overthrow on January 12. They were waiting to get into the office.

## 5TH AMENDMENT Hearing on two petitions today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday adjourned for a day the hearing on the leave-to-appeal petitions challenging the High Court (HC) verdict that declared illegal the fifth amendment to the constitution.

The six-member full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Md Fazlur Islam, fixed today for hearing the petitions.

The apex court adjourned the hearing upon two petitions seeking adjournment of the hearing for eight weeks.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and three SC lawyers Tajui Islam, Kamrui Hossain, and Md Uzi Ahsan Kabir, who had filed the leave-to-appeal petitions, submitted the adjournment petitions on Sunday.

ment and Muktijodha Kalyan Trust of two leave-to-appeal petitions against the HC verdict.

The matter has been enlisted as item No. 17 on hearing on the Appellate Division.

## Tk 19.35cr spent to orchestrate Jan 22 JS polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commission (EC) had spent Tk 19.35 crore for preparing voter list and taking preparation for holding the January 22, 2007 general elections which was stalled amid political turmoil.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, who is in charge of the EC secretariat in parliamentary business, told the parliament yesterday.

In reply to a query of AL lawmaker Israfil Alam, the minister said it would not be wise to take action against field-level officials for the expenditure as they had carried out the decision of EC.

## 'All religions teach peaceful co-existence'

METRO DESK

Ahmediyya Muslim Jama'at, Bangladesh organised a 'Meet on Inter-Faith Harmony' at its headquarters at Bakshi Bazar in the city recently.

Prof Pores Chandra Mondal of University of Dhaka, Ven Buddhanda Mohathero of International Buddhist Monastery, Father James Cruz and Maolana Abdul Awwal Khan Choudhury spoke at the meeting.

The speakers spoke on tolerance and inter-faith harmony from their respective religious points of view.

All the religions teach us peaceful co-existence although there are differences of opinion and belief, they added.

## Fast delivery of containers demanded C&F agents confine 2 officials at Kamalapur Railway Station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Clearing and forwarding (C&F) agents confined two high officials to their offices at Kamalapur Railway Station in the city for about two hours yesterday demanding steps to quicken the delivery of containers of imported goods from Chittagong port to Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Dhaka.

Activities at the Kamalapur ICD came to a halt as the C&F agents also observed work stoppage from 9:00am to 2:00pm for the second consecutive day yesterday.

General Secretary Khairul Bashar of Dhaka Customs Agents Association said several hundred C&F agents and ICD workers brought out a procession on the ICD compound before laying siege to the offices of the deputy traffic manager (port) and deputy regional manager (railway) at around 11:00am.

Motijheel police brought the situation under control and rescued the two officials at about 1:00pm, witnesses said.

Dhaka-bound containers have been lying at the Chittagong port for long due to the tardiness of the railway in transporting them.

Earlier, it would take around 72 hours for the containers to reach Kamalapur ICD from the Chittagong port, but now it takes around one month and this situation has been prevailing for the last one year, he said, adding that on the other hand, containers of goods reach the port from Singapore within four to seven days.

During the previous caretaker government, some three locomotives were used to transport the containers a day, but now virtually one locomotive carries the containers a day, which greatly hampers the activities of the ICD, Bashar said.

Earlier 110 to 120 containers reached Kamalapur ICD a day, but the number has now come down to 60 only, he added.

## Basona Ghosh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tripura told The Daily Star that DIG Aminul Islam was on the current duty as the additional IG and he is now in charge of the training and finance.

The additional IG (finance) post remained vacant since former additional IG left the department few months ago and he has now been working in the United Nation's peace-keeping mission.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jahanara Begum, one of the pioneers of handicrafts movement in the country, women's rights leader and a development worker, passed away at her residence at Nanuna Dighirpar in Comilla on Sunday at the age of 78, says a press release.

She was laid to rest at her family graveyard after her namaz-e-janaza at Nababbari and Chandpur Harun School.

She won some 126 awards including Swadhinata Padak in 1993, Queen Elizabeth Governor Gold Medal in 1962, Comilla Foundation Gold Medal in 1977, best Samabaya Award in 1982, best woman Award in 1985, best social worker award in 1998 for her contributions to developing handicrafts and helping eradicate poverty.

## Saidur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saidur Rahman, senior employee of the daily Ittefaq, passed away after suffering cardiac arrest at Suhrawardy Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 55, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Saidur served the newspaper for 36 years.

He was laid to rest at his family graveyard at Hamirbagh village under Laksham upazila after Zohr prayers.

## Basona Ghosh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Basona Ghosh, mother of Indrajit Kumar Ghosh, a photojournalist of the New Age, passed away at Square Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 55, says a press release.

She left behind her three sons and one daughter to mourn her death.

## Latifa Khatun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Latifa Khatun, mother of freedom fighter Fazlul Haque Ratan of Lamkain village under Gafargaon upazila in Mymensingh, passed away on Sunday at the age of 78, says a press release.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 9th death anniversary of Narayan Chandra Dey, a former high official of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, says a press release.

On this occasion, various religious programmes will be held at his village home at Garail in Tangail.

## Qulkhwani

METRO DESK

Qulkhwani of Alhaj Asaduzzaman, vice chairman of Islamic Group, will be held after Asr prayers today at his residence at House # 137, Road # SEG 3, Gulshan-1 (near Indian High Commission) in the city, says a press release.

He passed away on Friday at the age of 74.

## Amena Rahman

METRO DESK

Qulkhwani of Amena Rahman, mother-in-law of eminent lawyer Barrister Rafiqul Haque, will be held after Asr prayers today at her Purana Palatan residence in the city, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers of Amena Rahman are requested to attend the doa mahfil for the salvation of the departed soul.

Amena, wife of late Habibur Rahman, proprietor of Paramount Press of Hathkola, passed away due to old-age complications on Friday at the DAB Cardiac Hospital.