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Dredging, energy to top agenda

2-day meeting with donors start Feb 15

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to raise its plans to dredge rivers, enhance cooperation in cross-border trade, increase investment in transport, energy and power sectors at the February 15-16 Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) meeting in Dhaka.

The meeting of the BDF, a consortium of donor agencies, is going to be held after four years since 2005.

In the run up to the meeting, the government yesterday held a preparatory meeting chaired by the finance minister. The meeting discussed the draft report to be placed at the meeting.

In the draft report the government mentioned a good number of plans for marching forward in the times to come. "Increasing regional integration, especially in cross-border trade, transport and energy" was cited.

Finance ministry sources said the government is thinking of taking different regional integration efforts involving India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh and cooperation of the development partners would be taken in this regard.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) already conducted a study in 2008, the sources said.

The government also plans to promote gender equity and increase the number of parliament seats reserved for women to 100 in future. The present government increased the number to 45 from previous 30.

The report says the number of parliamentary seats occupied by women has seen a sharp rise. At present the number of women MPs -- both elected and from reserved seats -- stands at 64, which is 19 percent of the total seats.

The government also said election to all local bodies will be completed by 2010 to

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The last-minute preparation continues on the Bangla Academy premises yesterday, day before the inauguration of Ekushey Boi Mela.

Amar Ekushey book fair opens today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The month-long Amar Ekushey Boi Mela 2010 begins today on Bangla Academy premises in the city, commemorating the martyrs of the Language Movement, 1952.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the fair around 3:00pm. She will also open the Language Movement Museum at the academy's Bardhaman Bhaban.

The opening sessions will be telecast live on BTV and Bangladesh Betar.

Bangla Academy Director General Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan said every sort of preparation for the fair was complete.

A total of 505 stalls have been distributed among 356 institutions. As well as the publication houses, several voluntary organisations,

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6 FUGITIVE KILLERS Govt mulls MoU for extradition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government would bring the six fugitive killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman back to the country through mutual legal assistance or memorandum of understanding to extradite them.

The ministries of the law, home, and foreign affairs are working together to identify the countries where the convicted killers are absconding and maintaining diplomatic channels with them, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said yesterday.

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Shady plot sale led to attack on Sanjeeb

STAR REPORT

Dispute over the sale of a plot meant for the Tribal Welfare Association in the capital was the main motive behind the recent attack on indigenous community leader Sanjeeb Drong in Netrakona.

Sanjeeb, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, who came under attack on January 22, told The Daily Star that he was made a target for protesting the sale of one bigha land in Mirpur to an NGO early last year at a much lower price.

The indigenous community leader named Supen Tozu, brother-in-law of the Tribal Welfare Association President Promod Mankin, as one of the plotters.

Mankin, also state minister for cultural affairs, outright rejected the accusation saying the argument over the sale of the plot has nothing

to do with the attack on Sanjeeb and offered sympathy to the indigenous leader.

Referring to primary investigation in the case filed by Sanjeeb after the attack, Sub-Inspector Abdul Khaleque of Durgapur Police Station told the Netrakona correspondent of The Daily Star that they found the involvement of Remon Arang, son of Mankin's sister-in-law, in the attack.

Khaleque, the investigation officer of the case, said Supen Tozu, Krishna Saha, Sahid Mia, Abdul Hannan, Abdul Mannan, Sattar and Shamim were involved in the attack but declined to give details.

State Minister Promod Mankin told The Daily Star over the phone, "I hear that Sanjeeb Drong is accusing my relatives of carrying out the attack. But my brother-in-law has nothing to do with it."

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Ex-adviser Jahanara lands in jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Prof Jahanara Begum, former adviser to the primary and mass education ministry, to jail in a case for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information from the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after Jahanara surrendered before the court and sought bail in the case.

Moving a bail petition, Jahanara's lawyers told the court that their client had surrendered to the High Court

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Jubo League men go on rampage over recruitment

Nurse strike to protest assault

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Jubo League and Swetchchasebak League activists yesterday went on the rampage at Joypurhat Nursing Institute and assaulted a number of staff protesting "irregularities" in appointment of health assistants in freedom fighter quota.

Nurses at Joypurhat Sadar Hospital went on a wildcat strike early afternoon protesting the incident.

It also prompted the institute authorities to suspend viva voce for recruitment of health assistants in the district, said sources at the civil surgeon's office.

The attackers looted Tk 50,000 and tore official documents at the institute building. They also damaged furniture and windows in 12 rooms.

Begum Lutfunnessa, principal of the institute, told reporters that several groups of youths carrying sticks entered the institute

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DHAKA COLLEGE BCL continues to bar students from taking admission test

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Admission seekers could not appear at viva voce as Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders and activists at Dhaka College yesterday continued barring the students from entering the examination hall for the second consecutive day.

They also blocked the Mirpur road for about 20 minutes and vandalised some vehicles. Police later chased them away from the road around 12:30pm.

Sources said BCL brought

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A pair of parrots photographed recently in the port city's CRB area. Hundreds of parrots nest on the branches of age-old rain trees in the area.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Good day for India

SPORTS REPORTER

After firing blank Bangladesh put medals table yesterday when weightlifter Sarang Rustom won the silver in the their men's cycling bronze away at But as expected



on Saturday, their name on the terday when Akramul Huq won 56kg category and team clinched Khulna.

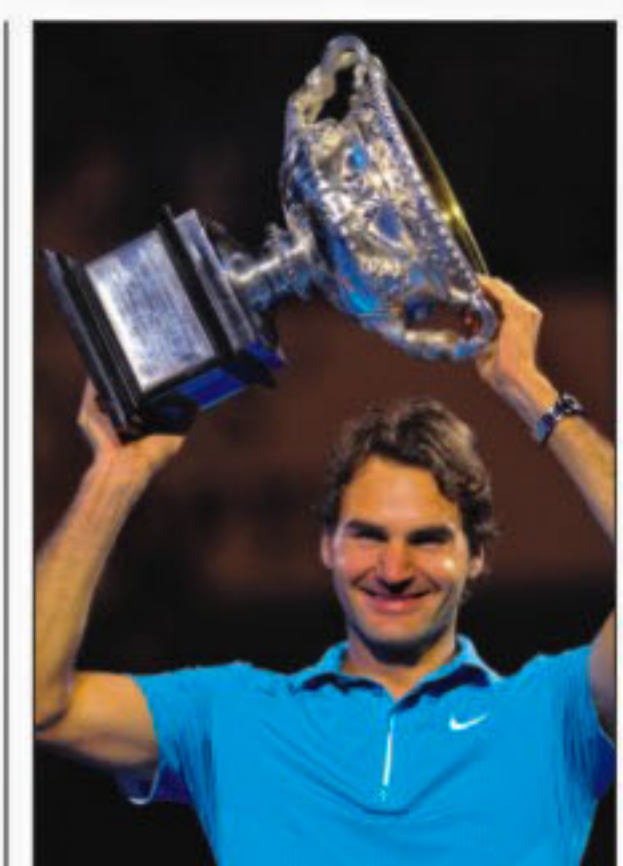
The Indian gold rush in the 11th South Asian Games has just begun. The undisputed leaders in the regional competition confirmed four out of seven gold decided on the day, taking their tally to five after Saturday's gold in the women's 30-km road race time trial in Khulna.

They also won the men's 80-km road race time trial in the southern headquarters of the country, where Bangladesh team finished third behind Pakistan.

Indian weightlifter Sarang Rustom won the 62kg gold while their two judokas, Vikram Solanki and Balvinder Singh won the 90kg and 73kg categories gold respectively.

Sri Lanka also had a good day as they won two gold in weightlifting with Kamal Wattse and Vidanage Chintanagree winning the 56kg and 69kg category events respectively.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Federer picks his 16th Slam

AFP, Melbourne

Swiss great Roger Federer won his fourth Australian Open and 16th Grand Slam title to deny Andy Murray's quest for British tennis history on Sunday.

Federer's remarkable level of consistency continued when he mastered the Scottish

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BDR MUTINY Kurigram court sets March 7 to start trial

STAR REPORT

Kurigram District and Sessions Judge yesterday fixed March 7 for starting trial of a sedition case against alleged 34 mutineers of 27 Rifles Battalion in Kurigram of Bangladesh Rifles, said our correspondent.

Public prosecutor submitted

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Prayer Timing		
February 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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IMF pledges \$100b Green Fund for poor

AFP, Davos

The IMF is working to create a 100 billion dollar Green Fund to help countries mitigate the effects of climate change, the agency said on its website yesterday.

The managing director of the International Monetary Fund Dominique Strauss-Kahn told the Davos forum that it was necessary to "think out of the box" on the issue of funding since developing countries do not have the funds to pay for these mitigation measures.

Developed countries' ability to pay is also limited as they are now weighed down by state debt since funds have been used to deal with the financial crisis, noted Strauss-Kahn.

As a result, "we'll have to find innovative ways to finance it," he said.

"We're going to provide some ideas, built around a Green Fund devoted to finance 100 billion dollars a year which is the figure currently accepted for addressing the problem based on the capitalisation coming from central banks, backed by special drawing rights issued by the fund," he said.

Special drawing rights are an international reserve asset created by the IMF in 1969 as a supplement to member states' official reserves. They can be exchanged for common currencies.

Dredging of Brahmaputra river starts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Narayanjanj district administration in collaboration Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority yesterday started dredging operation in the Brahmaputra river from Santupara to Panchamighat.

The dredging operation was initiated aiming to restore the navigability of the river and to repair the Langalbandha Ghat, a holy place of the Hindu community.

Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen formally inaugurated the dredging operation at the Langalbandha union parishad premises.

The eight kilometre dredging initiative was taken

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think BNP's delay in giving any reaction to the executions of the five Bangabandhu killers is tarnishing its image?

Yes (70.9%)
 No (27.9%)
 No Comments (1.2%)

Total votes: 1580

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think prepaid meters for gas consumers will be effective in stopping wastage and increase efficient use or natural gas?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
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বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা

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