

\$1.165m grant for CHT dev

ADB and Japan will provide financial support

BSS, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan will provide financial support for rural development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

The Japan Special Fund and Multi-Donor Trust Fund of the Water Financing Partnership Facility will jointly provide 1.165 million US dollar as grant to explore opportunities for small-scale water resources, infrastructure and investment in CHT.

The grant would be administered by ADB, said a statement of the bank in the city yesterday.

An agreement to this effect was signed between the government and ADB at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) in the city.

The technical assistance will examine the potential for small-scale water resources infrastructure and improved rural access to investments with community participation.

Besides, skill development training will be given to community groups so they can be fully involved in the planning, implementation and operation of rural infrastructure.

Special emphasis would also be given to strengthen and build up the capacities of the CHT affairs ministry, Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council and three hill district councils.

The assistance will pave the way for the Second CHT Rural Development Project which the ADB is expected to support.

The first phase of the project, carried out with ADB assistance from 2003 to 2009, helped improve rural roads and other basic physical infrastructure.



A child is being given oral saline at the ICDDR,B at Mohakhali in the city yesterday. The hospital experienced increased number of patients that rose to 290 yesterday.

CHT PEACE DEAL HC verdict on April 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday fixed April 12 for delivering verdict on the long pending writ petitions that challenged the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Agreement and its provisions.

After holding hearing on the petitions for more than 30 working days, the HC bench of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury set the date of judgement.

In 2000 and 2007 Badiuzzaman, a Bangalee settler in CHT, and Tajul Islam, a pro-Jamaat lawyer, filed the writ petitions.

The HC following the writ petitions had issued separate rules asking the government to explain why the CHT peace deal and its provisions should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

On December 2 in 1997, the previous Awami League government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina signed the peace agreement with Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) leader Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, popularly known as Santu Larma, ending an over two-decade-old insurgency.

ADVERSE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Bangla-Nepal cooperation stressed

BSS, Dhaka

Experts and high officials yesterday underscored the need for greater cooperation between Bangladesh and Nepal to face adverse impacts of climate change.

They were speaking at a session on "Bangladesh-Nepal National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) Experience Sharing" organized by Ministry of Environment and Forest and Nepal Ministry of Environment with support from UNDP, DFID, DANIDA, WWF, APFJ and FEJB at National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Dr M Asaduzzaman of BIDS made the keynote presentation while Joint Secretary Dr Nasiruddin, Nepal govern-

ment's Joint Secretary Sankar Prasad Koirala, Dr Rezaul Karim, Dr Aminul Islam of UNDP, Solaiman Haider of Department of Environment spoke. WWF Secretary General and FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury and Nepal government's under secretary Babukaji Baniya co-chaired the session.

Dr Asad spelled out the entire process of formulation of Bangladesh NAPA in 2005 and Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009 and gave the Nepalese high officials and experts some tips on their way to the formulation of NAPA now.

An 11-member Nepalese climate delegation consisted of high officials and experts also called on Environment

Secretary Dr Mihir Kanti Majumder at his secretariat office in the city.

During the call on and the subsequent discussions, the delegation members discussed various matters related to the climate change and said, Nepal government is now preparing national adaptation programme of action (NAPA) following Bangladesh model.

Environmental experts, professionals, civil society members and journalists joined the session where Sankar said how immensely Nepal is going to be benefited from Bangladesh experience.

He also underlined the need for enhancing bilateral cooperation between Dhaka and Kathmandu especially in the global negotiation.

WELFARE OF CHILD DOMESTIC HELP

Change of attitude among employers needed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Change of attitude among the employers is a must to ensure betterment of the child domestic helps, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

They were addressing the prize giving ceremony of essay writing, painting and debate competitions on 'Child domestic helps: Their rights and safety' organised by Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) at Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) auditorium in the city.

If a family that employs a child domestic help provides him with access to education and keep him away from hazardous jobs, this will change the life of the child greatly, said Save the Children

Sweden Denmark (SCSD) Representative Shahida Begum while speaking at the programme.

The child domestic helps not only need general education, but they also need vocational training and adequate knowledge to establish their rights, she added.

ASK Executive Director Sultana Kamal highlighted the human qualities that the children need to develop saying that these qualities are the indicators of the distinction between the civilised and the uncivilised.

Sultana urged the children to respect others and called on the teachers to instil the sense of discipline and morality among the children.

Asif Saleh, executive director of

Drishtipat, said if the employers take the responsibility of the child domestic helps violence against children will be reduced to a great extent.

Later, the guests distributed the prizes among the winners.

The competition was arranged in different city schools with a view to raising awareness regarding the rights of the child domestic helps.

Students of Lalmatia Girls' High School, Dhanmondi Government Boys' School, West Dhanmondi Yusuf High School, Base School, Dhanmondi Government Girls' School, Dhanmondi Kachi Kantha High School and Ali Hossain Girls' High School took part in the competition.

Youth found dead in Keraniganj

UNB, Keraniganj

Police recovered the body of an unidentified youth at Abdullahpur in Dakkhin Keraniganj yesterday morning.

Local people found the body beside Dhaka-Maowa highway in the morning and informed local police.

Police sent the body to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police said they found several marks of stab injury in his head.

They suspected that miscreants might have left the body after killing him elsewhere.

RU STUDENT MURDER Police asked not to harass Jamaat-Shibir activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) on Monday directed the police not to harass or arrest over 200 activists of Bangladesh Jamaat-e Islami and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir in the cases filed on charge of killing Rajshahi University student Faruk Hossain.

The HC bench of Justice MA Wahhab Miah and Justice Md Abdur Razzaque, however, directed the first information report (FIR) named accused of the case to surrender before the Sessions Judge's Court in Rajshahi within eight weeks in the cases.

The bench passed the orders following 19 bail petitions filed by the accused. The accused Jamaat-Shibir activists appeared before the HC bench on Monday afternoon seeking bail in the cases.

Some separate 13 cases were filed after the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist and RU student Faruk was hacked to death during the RU rampage on February 8 this year. Barrister Abdur Razzaq appeared for the petitioners.



The draw of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Lottery 2010 was held at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid, renowned lawyer Barrister Rafique-ul Huq and Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam were present.

27TH BCS EXAM

HC verdict stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed for six weeks a High Court (HC) verdict that directed the government to appoint 197 candidates who qualified the first viva voce for 27th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examination, to the services.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice SK Sinha passed the order upon a petition filed by the government against the HC verdict.

The judge also fixed April 25 for hearing the regular leave-to-appeal petition against the HC verdict at the regular bench of the apex court.

The government has recently filed a regular leave-to-appeal petition with the SC against the HC verdict.

In response to three separate writ petitions filed by 197 candidates, the HC on November 11 last year, pronounced a verdict directing the government to appoint them to the services.

In another verdict, the HC on January 26 this year directed the government to appoint 652 other similar candidates.

Candidates' lawyer Salahuddin Dolon yesterday told The Daily Star that the government would not be able to appoint the candidates to their services following the apex court order.

On May 30, 2007, the last caretaker government cancelled the viva voce result alleging irregularities in holding examinations.

A total of 1,154 candidates, including the writ petitioners, were disqualified in the fresh viva.

Lack of awareness key hurdle to safe water

METRO DESK

Lack of awareness and capacity to safeguard water quality are major hurdles to address the country's water crisis. Country Representative of IUCN Bangladesh Professor Niaz Khan said yesterday. He was addressing a work-

shop titled 'World Water Day 2010: Clean Water for a Healthy World' at the Forest Department in the city yesterday.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Bangladesh and WaterAid Bangladesh jointly organised the workshop, says a press release.

CANCER HOSPITAL LOTTERY

GA 0573309 wins first prize

METRO DESK

The draw of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital Lottery 2010 was held at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

The ticket GA 0573309 has won the first prize of Tk 30 lakh while JA 0078166 has bagged the second prize of Tk 5 lakh and A 803420 won the third prize of Tk 70000.

Addressing the draw as the chief guest, Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid said the government will extend all-out support to the Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital.

Renowned lawyer Barrister Rafique-ul Huq was present as special guest while Supreme Court lawyer Barrister MA Samad, former secretary Lutfar Rahman Talukder and veteran educationist Prof Nurul Islam were members of the Board of Jury.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam and former secretary and adviser to the Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital project Mohammad Alispoke on the occasion.

The winners have been advised to apply in writing along with the original tickets and two copies of photographs to the president of Dhaka Ahsania Mission to receive the prize money within a month of the draw.

The full draw is available on www.thedailystar.net

Workshop on right to information

METRO DESK

Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) and Manusher Jonno Foundation jointly organised a three-day workshop on 'Right to Information' for the 45th Foundation Batch of BCS cadre officers recently.

A total of 250 officers from different cadres participated at the workshop, says a press release.

Rector of BPATC Md Delwar Hossain, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Information Abu Bakar Siddique and Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation Shaheen Anam distributed the certificates among the participants.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 13th death anniversary of former joint secretary Qazi Nurul Islam, says a press release.

He passed away at Akron City Hospital in Ohio, USA on this day in 1997.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be held to pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Lion Aminul Islam

METRO DESK

Today is the 6th death anniversary of Lion Aminul Islam Miah, former chairman of Bangladesh Lions Foundation, Past District Governor of Lions Clubs International District-315 B2 and AIG of Police, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at Lions Bhaban at Agargaon in the city at 7:00pm.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for salvation of his departed soul.

SC Bar elections begin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day annual election of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) begins today.

The polling will take place from 10:00am to 5:00pm today and tomorrow.

Some 1,971 lawyers have been enlisted to cast their votes for the 14 executive posts, including president and secretary.

The SCBA authorities have taken all preparations for holding the election, sources said.

Advocate Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque will lead the seven-member election sub-committee to conduct the SCBA polls.

According to the sources, the main contest in the election will take place between the panel of ruling Awami League-backed Sammilita Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad (SASP) and the opposition BNP-backed Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Parishad (JAOP).

Two senior lawyers - Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury (SASP) and Khandaker Mahbub Hossain (JAOP) are contesting for the post of president while Momtaz Uddin Ahmed (SASP), Badruddoza Badal (JAOP) and Saifuddin Chowdhury (Independent) are contesting the election for the post of secretary.

The other candidates of SASP are AKM Fazlul Haque Khan Farid and Ranjan Kumar Chakravorty (vice-president), Nuruzzaman Khan Hiru (treasurer), Moshfaquur Rahman Sabuj and Shahab Hossain Khan Milton (assistant secretary), and Faruk Alamgir Chowdhury, Afroza Chowdhury, Sorafat Ullah, MA Kamal Khan Daud, Anwar Hossain Reza, Afroza Naznin Aktar Rekha and Bilkis Fatema Jiblu (executive member).

The rest of the candidates of JAOP are Golam Mostafa and Mahabubul Huq (vice president), Jahangir Kabir (treasurer), AJM Morshed Al Mamun Litan and Abul Kalam Azad (assistant secretary), and Shahidul Islam ASM Moktar Kabir Khan, Shahidul Islam of Jhalakati, Sakir Hossain, Ziaul Haque, Nazir Ahmed Hossain and Nasrin Aktar (executive member).

OSMANI MEDICAL COLLEGE Vice-principal's office locked for 2nd day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The office of vice-principal of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College remained locked for the second consecutive day yesterday following a dispute among pro-government physicians.

Rival faction of Swadhinata Chikithsak Parishad, a pro-Awami League platform of physicians locked the room and removed nameplates of the vice-principal and head of microbiology department on Monday afternoon protesting appointment of the new Vice-Principal.

Vice-President of Bangladesh Medical Association Dr. Ehteshamul Haque Chowdhury, led one faction while Dr. Mainul Haque, head of the

Microbiology Department led another faction of Swadhinata Chikithsak Parishad in Osmani Medical College.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Today 24th of March 2010, is the First Death Anniversary of Late Prof. Dr. Waliullah, renowned Professor of Medicine and Principal of Dhaka Medical College. We are still deeply bereaved by his sad departure. We pray to Great ALLAH for the salvation of his departed soul and request the same from all his relatives, friends and well-wishers. - Bereaved family members