

\$1829.73 million foreign aid in July-May

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh received 1829.73 million US dollar as foreign assistance from the development partners during the 11 months (July-May) of the current fiscal year (2009-10). Of the assistance, 1445.69 million US dollar was received as loan while 384.03 million dollar as grants, said a source at the Economic Relations Division (ERD). Of the loan, Asian Development Bank (ADB) provided 995.21 million US dollar, World Bank (WB) 316.858 million US dollar, Japan 75.21 million US dollar and the rest by other development partners. Of the grant, UK's DFID provided 107.45 million US dollar, European Union 41.38 million US dollar, Germany 47.93 million US dollar, World Bank 40.42 million US dollar, UN system 50.06 million US dollar and World Food Programme 70.80 million US dollar. During the same period (July-May), Bangladesh's repayment totalled 773.55 million US dollar. The development partners earlier made commitments of providing 2404 million US dollar to Bangladesh in the current fiscal year.



Columnist Syed Abul Moksud speaks at a press conference of Soroptimist International Club of Dhaka at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is Salma Khan and on his right are Prof Suraiya Siddiqi and Prof Nazma Siddiqi. The press conference called for raising awareness to prevent violence against women and children.

Indian Khasias intrude into Sylhet again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Indian Khasias again intruded into Bangladesh territory on Jaintapur border area yesterday, just a day after the high level coordination meeting between the BSF and BDR. About 30 to 40 Khasia tribesmen backed by BSF crossed the borders on Minatila area at about 9:45 am through border pillar No 1282 and ploughed up paddy lands for about four hours. The BDR men from Minatila border post asked the Indians several times to leave the Bangladesh territory to avoid trouble. The Indians, however, denied leaving the place. When the BDR raised red flags and blew whistle, they left the scene, as red flag is the ultimate signal before firing, sources said. Second in Command of 21 battalion of BDR Major Abdullah Al Mamun confirmed the incident of intrusion and

told The Daily Star that the border guards were compelled to raise red flags on the Minatila border yesterday. Brig Gen Obaidul Haque, also deputy director general of BDR and BSF's Inspector General, Assam-Meghalaya frontier-RC Saxena led their respective sides in the five and a half hours long meeting held on Dauki border in Meghalaya on Thursday. The meeting was held on the pretext of tense situation prevailing since February along the 17-kilometre borders from Jaintapur to Tamabil. The Indian Khasia tribes under BSF protection attempted to occupy some 300 acres of croplands on Dibir haor, Protappur (Padua) and Tamabil borders. BSF and BDR traded gunshots several times over intrusion of Indian nationals into Bangladesh territory. BSF also shot some Bangladesh nationals dead and injured at least a hundred during the period.

PM greets her new Australian counterpart

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina congratulated Julia Gillard on her assumption of Office of her Prime Minister of Australia. In a message of felicitation yesterday, she expressed her hope that the existing fraternal relationship between the two countries would further be strengthened in the years to come. Welsh-born lawyer Julia Gillard became Australia's first woman prime minister on Thursday after once popular Kevin Rudd fell to a party coup less than three years after taking office. Julia, 48, was elected unopposed in a shock Labour Party ballot called just hours earlier, according to reports of agencies.

'Evict encroachers from Meghna river immediately'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists yesterday called on the authorities to evict all encroachers of Meghna river at Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, immediately as per the directive of the prime minister. Speaking at a rally, they also demanded removal of earth from the filled-up portion of the river and punishment to the river grabbers. Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) organised the rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club. The encroachers occupied 8.39 acres of river bed at Char Chaartala in Ashuganj for setting up industries. Local administration has asked the encroachers to remove earth from the filled-up river bed. On May 12, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also gave a directive to evict the encroachers. But instead of removing earth, the encroachers are dilly-dallying and trying to grab the river bed permanently, the speakers said. Residents of Dhaka, Munshiganj, Narayanganj and adjacent areas will face countless problems, including biohazards and health hazards, if the encroachers are not evicted, they said. Dr Abdul Matin, general secretary, Bapa, Badiul Alam Majumdar, country director, Hunger Project, and Tushar Rehman, secretary general of Citizen Rights Movement, among others, spoke at the rally.

Shibir cadres flex muscles on RU campus

A RU CORRESPONDENT

A large number of Shibir cadres staged demonstration on the Rajshahi University (RU) campus on Thursday night in presence of law enforcers defying the authorities' restrictions. Witnesses said over 100 Shibir men equipped with firearms entered the campus at about 8:30pm and took out a procession demanding release of their seven leaders and activists who were arrested earlier in the day from exam hall of the Arabic department in connection with February 9 campus violence. They also exploded 10 or 12 handmade bombs during the demonstration, students and guards said. Earlier, the Shibir cadres hurled bricks and stones at the police at the university's Fine Arts gate while entering the campus, the police said. They also held a short meeting in front of the university's main gate where Shibir

leaders instructed their cadres to get ready for action programme any time. They threatened to paralyse the campus if the authorities do not stop harassment of their leaders and activists. After the meeting, the Shibir leaders left the campus. Meanwhile, panic gripped the general students following a rumour that Shibir men attacked the halls with firearms at night. Many students even left their dormitories fearing attacks. Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men also took position in front of the hall gates with sharp weapons and firearms until midnight on Thursday night. RU Proctor Prof Chowdhury Zakaria said the authorities have stepped up security in and around the campus. Abul Khair, officer-in-charge of Motihar police station, said they are conducting drives to arrest the Shibir cadres.

Nine people rescued from traffickers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) rescued nine people, including two women and a child, in Uksha border area in Kaliganj, Sathkira, on Thursday night when they were being trafficked to India. All the victims hail from Shyamnagar, an Aila-affected upazila. Taking advantage of the suffering of the people in Aila-affected areas, traffickers collected the victims from their makeshift houses built on the embankments with promise of good jobs, the police said quoting local people. The victims are Ambia Khatun, 32, and her son Nayan, 10, of village Pakhima, Rizia Bibi, 33, of village Bhadrabadia, Masud Hasan, 18, Milon Hossain, 19, Hazrat Ali, 43, and Belal Mollah, 20, of village Atulia, Rijajul Islam Bablu, 20, of village Shreefalkati, and Sakat Ali of village Baduria. BDR men rescued them while they were being taken across the border at about 11:30pm. The traffickers, however, managed to escape, sources said. Later, BDR men handed them over to Kaliganj police. Talking to this correspondent, victim Ambia Khatun said traffickers lured her with a job in India.



Mohammad A Moyeen, 5th from right, director of the Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, inaugurates level 10 of the hospital with new 18 Super Deluxe and 18 Deluxe Rooms on Thursday. CEO of the hospital Michael Potter, 4th from right, General Manager (Business Development) Dr Shagufa Anwar, 4th from left, and COO Shahjahan Majumder, 3rd from left, are also seen.

Journo killed in Khulna road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A journalist was killed in a road accident at Dumuria upazila here yesterday. The dead was identified as Sheikh Babul Hasan, Dumuria upazila correspondent of the Daninik Tathya published from the Khulna city. Babul was run over by an autorickshaw at Kharmia under the same upazila at 2:00pm, witnesses said. He succumbed to his injuries at Khulna Medical College Hospital at 3:30pm, police said. The angry people damaged the autorickshaw while its driver managed to escape. The deceased was son of Sheikh Abdus Samad and a student of second year honours of political science department of Daulatpur Govt BL College. He was 23.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Oasi Noman, son of the second accused in the Agartala conspiracy case Shaheed Lt Commander Moazzem Hossain, passed away on June 16 while he was undergoing treatment in Los Angeles, the US, says a press release. He left behind his mother, brother, sister and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death. His body will arrive in his mother's residence at House No # 37, Road No # 1 at Dhanmondi in the city today. His first namaz-e-janaza will be held at Dhanmondi at 3:00pm and the second one after Asr prayers at Navy central mosque. He will be buried under the supervision of Navy men. On the occasion, doa mahfil will be held at his mother's residence after Asr prayers on June 29. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the prayers.

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Azim Uddin elected NSU Foundation chairman

METRO DESK

Azim Uddin Ahmed, a renowned industrialist, was elected chairman of the board of governors of the North South University (NSU) Foundation and the Porichalona Porshod of the university for 2010-11 at the 18th annual general meeting of the Foundation on Thursday, says a press release. He is also a founder life member of the NSU Foundation. Azim Uddin had served the Foundation and the university previously for another term during 2001-02. He hoped to make best possible efforts to enable NSU to continue as a centre of excellence for higher education. Azim Uddin is the chairman of Mutual Group of Companies and sponsor director and past chairman of Southeast Bank Ltd.

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