METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

Agri credit policy July 21

Farmers to get Tk 12,000 crore: Dr Atiur

BSS, Barisal

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman yesterday said the agriculture credit policy would be announced on July 21 aiming at disbursing over Tk 12,000 crore loans among farmers.

The monetary policy, to be mentofpowersector, he said. announced on July 19, would be progrowth, the central bank chief said while exchanging views with journalists at the Barisal Circuit House.

Dr Atiur said there are 47 public and private banks across the country and if they perform their responsibilities, then the fate of the hard-working people,

especially the farmers, would improve. Mentioning that over one lakh sharecroppers received credits directly from banks last year, he said several thousand of them were women which never happened in the past.

He urged the bankers to provide more social services adding that people would be benefited if more importance

were given to education and agriculture sectors.

"The government has remained beside the farmers and it would stay on their side," he said.

The government has taken projects costing Tk 1,800 crore for the develop-

Appreciating the role of mass media, he said it was not possible to reach important information on economic affairs without help of mass media. Although the rate of poverty was

higher in the northern part of the country in the past, it has now increased in the south, he said, adding that desired development in the region would be possible after completion of Padma Bridge. Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank

(BB) Murshid Kuli Khan, Managing Director of Mutual Trust Bank Anis Khan, Managing Director of NCC Bank Nurul Amin and Deputy General Manager of BB Barisal branch Golam Mustafa were present.

Later, the governer left for Barguna for

inaugurating a solar irrigation system of Resource Development Foundation (RDF) at Kumrakhali-Fultola village in sadar upazila.

According to a RDF press release, the new solar irrigation system would have a positive impact on agriculture production.

Under this project, 40-acre of twoseason lands of 83 farmers would be brought under irrigation using six-inch radius pipes for the first time in the A total of 48 solar panels on four

stands would pump water into crop fields through motors running on solar energy, it added. It would be possible to pump eight lakh liters of water daily through this system without any elec-

Rahim Afroz Company Limited manufactured these solar panels with its own technology while RDF and Shahjalal Islami Bank jointly financed the project.



Students of Chhayanaut sing at the inaugural ceremony celebrating 50 years of Rabindra Jayanti at Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the city yesterday.

around 11:45am.

Bangladesh Army becomes a Road accidents kill 3 big conglomerate over years

Says a BBC documentary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Army has turned into one of the biggest conglomerates in the country over the years following its engagement in different types of commercial businesses, according to a BBC documentary.

The first episode of the nine-part documentary titled "Fouji Banijjo" (Military in business) was broadcast on BBC radio program "Probaho" last night focusing on commercial efforts of Bangladesh army and its nature of business.

"The business imperial of Bangladesh army is growing day by day," said the documentary.

The property value of the projects and commercial efforts related to Bangladesh Army is estimated to be at least Tk 3,000 crore, the documentary said.

Every five sacks of cement out of 100, used for construction works in the capital or other part of the country, come from different institutions belonging to the army. The name of Bangladesh Army is now

connected with businesses like fast food, shoe, cement, hotel, bank, CNG and electronic materials while they have several other ventures under consideration.

Despite several months attempt, the documentary through its investigation

could not get any official statement from Bangladesh Army regarding the history and nature of their involvement in businesses, the documentary reported.

The documentary only identified Sena Kalyan Sangstha (SKS), which runs several business units or projects as the earliest foundation of the army.

SKS was established with the objective for the welfare of retired army personnel and their family members, it said.

Pakistani researcher and author Ayesha Siddiqa in her book titled "Military Inc: Inside Pakistan's Military Economy" said that Pakistan government had established business industry in early 1950's with the money of the British government, which was kept for war-returned soldiers.

It implies that the Pakistan army had a strong political power with which it tried to become a force involved not only in ensuring sovereignty but also contributing to the socio-economic development of the country, the documentary said citing the book.

After independence in 1971, the SKS began its journey only with Tk 2.5 crore. Within four years, the tiny investment turned into Tk 100 crore, the documentary said.

SKS's business area has expanded over the last 38 years and it owns shares in real estate and four international serviceoriented businesses.

The documentary said Army Welfare Trust, established in 1998 during the tenure of the then army chief Lt Gen Mustafizur Rahman, is doing brisk business than SKS.

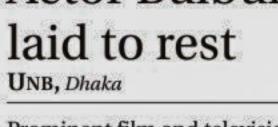
Both Bangladesh Army and Air Force of the armed forces division are directly involved in businesses.

Following huge interest in businesses by both the forces, the government handed over several government loss-incurredinstitutions to them.

"The trust or institutions related with Bangladesh army do not deviate from the fundamental characteristics of capital in a capitalist society," the documentary added.

The organisations under SKS are--Mongla Cement Factory, Diamond Food Flower Mills, Savoy Ice-cream, Chocolate Factory, Sainik Lamps Distribution Centre, Amin Mohiuddin Foundation, Sena Kalyan Commercial Foundation, Sena Travels Ltd, SKS Bhaban, New Hotel Tiger Garden, SK

Golf Club, Water Garden Hotel Ltd.



METRO DESK

Bogra and Gazipur.

in Naogaon yesterday.

district.

Three people were killed and 27 injured in

separate road accidents in Chapainawabganj,

reports: Two motorcyclists were killed in a

Our correspondent from Chapainawabganj

The deceased were identified as Monju, 38,

son of Boshiruddin of Nodhumi village under

Patnitola upazila and Ahsan Habib Bullet, 25,

son of Altab Hossain of Akhirapara village of the

Sub Inspector Shariful Islam of Mohadevpur

Police Station said a Mohadevpur bound motor

cycle from Nazipur collided head on with

another from the opposite direction on

Nazipur-Mohadevpur road at Enayetpur Bazar,

killing the two motorcyclists on the spot at

Prominent film and television actor Bulbul Ahmed was laid to rest at Azimpur graveyard yesterday.

People from all walks of life gathered to pay their last respects to the media icon at each of three namaz-ejanazas at Gulshan Azad Mosque, BTV complex at Rampura and Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (FDC) premises.

Film actor Uzzal, directors Chashi Nazrul Islam and Morshedul Islam, singers Khurshid Alam and Abdul Jabbar attended the janaza at

Earlier, his body was brought from Square Hospital's mortuary to his Gulshan Niketan residence in an ambulance. Bulbul Ahmed was laid to

rest beside his parents' graves at Azimpur graveyard at 3:30pm. Bulbul breathed his last at

12:30am on Thursday at city's Square Hospital. He had been suffering from diabetes and heart diseases

since long. Bulbul's one son and one daughter, who live abroad, returned home yesterday morning. The celebrated actor

left behind his wife Daisy Ahmed, two daughters Aindrila and Tilottama, son Shubha.

Thai fair begins

Bss, Dhaka

A three-day Thai fair titled Taste of Thailand in Bangladesh' began at the Thai Embassy in the city yesterday.

Inaugurating the fair, Commerce Minister Muhammad Faruq Khan termed the existing relations between Bangladesh and Thailand as excellent. "The cultural heritage of the Southeast Asian nation is very rich," he said. He expressed the hope that

the bilateral relations between the two countries would be strengthened further with holding such a fair. The commerce minister

also thanked the organisers including the Thai Embassy to arrange the fair.

Thai Ambassador in Dhaka STAFF CORRESPONDENT Tasanwadee Miancharoen

also spoke at the function. US Ambassador in Dhaka movement if the government fails to announce Tk 5,000 as Later, Faruq Khan visited

the minimum wage for garments workers by July 28.

Police recovered the bodies and sent them to Naogaon General Hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death case was filed with

Mohadevpur police station in this connection. UNB from Bogra said: Hafizur Rahman, 20, a motorcycle accident on Mohadevpur upazila motorcyclist, was killed and two other co-riders were injured when a potato laden truck hit the motorcycle from behind at Chonka bazaar in Sherpur upazila on Thursday.

> Rubel Ahmed, 28, and Mamun, 18, were rushed to Shaheed Zia Medical College Hospital in Bogra with injuries. In Gazipur: At least 25 passengers were injured

in a head-on collision between two buses at Porabari Bazar in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Of the injured, five -- Tazila, 5, Hasuni Begum, 35, Amena Khatun, 35, Amena, 35, and Rakib, 25, were admitted to Sadar hospital.

32, 000 more cops Actor Bulbul to be recruited in three years

Says Sahara

Bss, Savar

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said the government will recruit more 32000 law enforcers within the next three

Sahara said this while she was distributing prizes among meritorious students who passed the HSC and equivalent examinations this year. Kuwait based SSRI High School and

Institute of Technology and Management organised the prize distribution ceremony. The home minister said militants and terrorists are hiding

at different places in the country and urged the people to build resistance against them. Talukder M Towhid Jong Murad, lawmaker of Dhaka-19 (Savar), attended the function as the special guest with Savar

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Rabbi Mia in the chair. Later, she distributed 390 sewing machines among the poor and distressed women.



Health Programme Faruq Ahmed, passed away in the city onWednesday at the age of 80. She left behind five sons

and six daughters to mourn her death.

She was buried at her village graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Dhaka University central mosque and Shamshernagar in Moulvibazar on Thursday.

METRO DESK RMG workers' ultimatum

> Dham, Kahet Pada, Dhamrai, Dhaka passed away on July 12, says a press release. She left behind her five

Ivotsna

sons and three daughters to mourn her death.

Sraddha will be held at Sadhu Dham in Dhamrai on

yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Call to ban Jamaat, Shibir politics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Nazrul, Adv

Harun DUPSAA

president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Dr M Nazrul Islam and

Advocate M Harunur Rashid

have been elected the president

and general secretary of the

Dhaka University Political

Science Alumni Association

(DUPSAA) for 2010-12, said a

committee was elected

Prof Mohammad Zunaid,

Prof M Saifullah Bhuiyan, Prof

Nilufer Sultana, Prof Dr Abdul

Latif Masum, and Colonel

(Retd) Mosharraf Hossain

were elected vice presidents

while Mohammad Shariful

Islam and Dr SM Morshed

ing and the national congress

of DUPSAA were held on July 9.

The election, general meet-

The 31 member executive

press release.

uncontested.

joint secretaries.

Delwar Hossain Sayedee - in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

They called on the government to ban the Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir during a human chain programme held before the burning of effigies.

diate trial of war criminals, Joint General Secretary of Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote Arun Sarkar Rana said there is no

WEATHER 4

No change in temperature

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by

temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over

Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two

places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Khulna divisions

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the

The sun sets in the capital at 6:48pm today and rises at

Country's highest temperature 35.6 degrees Celsius was

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded

Min

28.1

27.4

26.7

27.2

27.4

26.8

27.0

recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 26.0 degrees

in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Max

34.7

32.5

34.8

34.3

33.3

34.6

33.1

Temperature in

Celsius

in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

country, Met Office said.

5:21am tomorrow.

Celsius at Srimongal.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

obstruction to conduct the trial.

Stressing the need for imme- the war criminals and uphold the image of the country, he added.

> Among others film maker Abdul Haque Sabuj, actress Parul Aktar Lopa, play director Anwar Hossain Majnu spoke at the human chain programme.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



president of Ward 16 of Dhaka city unit Awami League, will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at his

Azizul Haque died on May 16 this year.

Sraddha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Sraddha of Monoj Kanti Dey,

former teacher of Durgapur Nagondra Chandra High School under Mirsharai upazila of Chittagong, will be held today at his village home on Mithachara of that area, said a press release yesterday. Relatives, friends and well-

wishers are requested to attend the function.

nis last on July 2.

Monoj Kanti Dey breathed

Industries, Sena Garments, Chittagong and Candy Factory, Savoy bread and Biscuit SKS commercial Space, SKS Trading House,

The organizations under Army Welfare Trust are--Army Shopping Complex, Sena Hotel Development Ltd, Sena Filling Station, Trust Bank Ltd, Trust Filling and CNG Station, Kurmitola Golf Club, Savar



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at a meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) at Gono Bhaban in the city

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote yesterday burnt effigies of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami top brass - Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid, and

UNB, Dhaka

national and international

There is no alternative to try

Humidity in

percentage

Evening

74

92

77

73

Morning

73

83

84

76

80

74

Chehlum



Chehlum of Azizul

city residence after Johr prayers.

James F Moriarty and president of Bangladesh-Thai Chambers and Commerce MA Momen were present on the occasion.

different stalls at the fair where Thai packet foods, fruits, beverages, gift items, cooking products and ornaments are being displayed.

ensuring rights to trade union, Leaders of the Sarbodaliya formulation of a democratic Garments-Sramik Oikya, an alliance of different workers' organisations, yesterday threatened to wage tougher

Children engrossed in painting at a competition at the Institute of

Fine Arts Faculty of Dhaka University yesterday organised by

vance of the death anniversary of Colonel Taher.

They made the demand at a rally at Muktangon in the city workers' leader Moshrefa yesterday, said a press release. Mishu spoke at the function.

and effective labour law and withdrawal of cases filed against different worker lead-The alliance President Mahbubur Rahman Ismail, Garments-Sramik Trade

Other demands include

Union Kendra General Secretary KM Ruhul Amin and

JSD leader Jafar Sajjad passes away BSS, Dhaka

Syed Jafar Sajjad, a standing committee member and former general secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), passed away due to a cardiac at the National Heart Foundation

Hospital in the city on Friday night at the age of 63. Sajjad was the commander of freedom fighters in Pakshi area under Iswardi police station in Pabna during the War of Liberation.

His body was taken to the JSD office on Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday noon where party colleagues paid their last respects to him by placing wreaths on his coffin.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Juma prayers.

A large number of people including Awami League leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Advocate Qamrul Islam, JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu and Workers Party President Rashed Khan

Menon attended the janaza. He will be buried at his village home at Pakshi in Iswardi.

Nurunnahar Begum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nurunnahar Begum, wife of late engineer Sirajul Haque and mother of martvred

freedom fighter Lt Atiqur Rahman, passed away at her New Colony residence at Asad Gate in the city yesterday at the age of 86.

She was buried at her family graveyard in Rasulpur village in Mymensingh after namaz-ejanaza at Shaheed Lt Atiqur Rahman High School there.

Her qulkhwani will be held at the Panditbari of Rasulpur village in Mymensingh after Asr prayers on July 19.

Begum Faizunnessa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alhaz Begum Faizunnessa, mother of Director of BRAC

Colonel Taher Sangsad. The competition was organised in obser-**Jyotsna Moyee Banik**



July 28.