

\$1b credit line

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the occasion.

Secretary of Economic Relations Department M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan of Bangladesh and Chairman and Managing Director of Exim Bank, India TCA Ranganathan signed the deal on behalf of their sides.

Pranab said New Delhi is committed to implementing a joint communiqué signed during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in January.

During Hasina's trip, India has agreed to give Bangladesh transit facility to connect with Nepal and Bhutan, he said.

"We will soon have in place arrangements to allow trucks from Nepal to enter the Bangladesh side of the land custom station at Banglabandha," Pranab said.

Pranab arrived in Dhaka around 3:40pm yesterday by a special Indian aircraft. Muhih received him on the VIP tarmac of Hazrat Shahjalal (R) International Airport.

Special Security Force was engaged in providing security to the Indian minister. Such security is usually arranged for a visiting head of state.

After the signing ceremony, Pranab called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gano Bhaban. Earlier, he held separate meetings with Muhih and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni.

Pranab also met three Awami League leaders -- Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta at the residence of Indian high commissioner in Dhaka.

He left for his country around 9:30pm.

THE DEAL, THE TERMS

The main terms and conditions of the credit line agreement include 1.75 percent interest (fixed) per annum, 0.5 percent commitment fee per annum on unutilised credit after 12 months from the date of contract approval, and 20 years' repayment period including a grace period of five years.

"This one-billion-dollar line of credit is the largest ever amount given by India to any country," said Pranab.

"I am confident that this credit line will be the stepping stone for a shared destiny and will transform our bilateral engagement," he said at the loan signing ceremony.

Muhih said, "India's assistance in improving the railway infrastructure will facilitate Bangladesh's transit to Bhutan and Nepal."

THE FOURTEEN PROJECTS

The first project is on procurement of six high-powered dredgers at \$71.69 million. Of the dredgers, one will be used for dredging at Mongla Port while three for Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority and two for Bangladesh Water Development Board.

The second project is related to construction of an internal container river port at Ashuganj at a cost of \$36.23 million. Bangladesh and India have recently signed an agreement under which Ashuganj in Bangladesh and Silghat in India have been declared ports of call.

The third project is to buy 10 broad gauge locomotive engines worth \$31.55 million

for Bangladesh Railway. The fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh projects are also related to Bangladesh Railway.

Some 125 broad gauge passenger coaches will be bought at a cost of \$53.63 million under the fourth project, while 60 tank wagons for fuel oil transportation and two break vans at a cost of \$8.85 million under the fifth project.

The sixth one is on buying 50 metre gauge flat wagons and five break vans at a cost of \$4.55 million for Bangladesh Railway.

Under the seventh project, two railway bridges -- 2nd Bhairab Bridge and 2nd Titab Bridge -- will be constructed, which will cost \$120 million.

The next five projects are related with road transport. The eighth one is to buy 300 double-decker buses for Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) at an estimated amount of \$29.65 million.

Under the ninth project, 50 articulated buses will be bought for BRTC at a cost of \$6.12 million.

The 10th one is related to development of road communications for a land port. Under the project, Sarail-Brahmanbaria-Sultanpur-Akhaura-Senabadi road will be constructed at a cost of \$33.82 million.

The 11th project is for construction of an overpass at Jurain rail crossing and a flyover at Malibagh rail crossing in Dhaka. These will cost \$31.44 million.

Project number 12 is purely on connectivity between Bangladesh and India. Under this project, a road will be constructed between Ramgarh and Sabroom (Tripura's southern border town) at a cost of \$14.53 million.

An amount of \$150.86 million will be spent for the 13th project, which is for setting up power gridline between India and Bangladesh. Under the project, a 400KV grid interconnection between Bheramara of Bangladesh and Baharamapur of India will be set up.

The 14th project has four sub projects related to capacity building of Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI). Laboratories will be set up at a cost of \$8.92 million to test foods, cement, brick and gold.

TEESTASHARE

At a press briefing after the deal signing ceremony, Pranab said India and Bangladesh have already exchanged drafts of an interim agreement on Teesta Water Sharing.

"We are discussing and it is progressing in a positive direction," he said and hoped that the agreement would be signed soon. Work on 50 river embankments on both sides has also started, added Pranab.

Wife beaten

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series of altercations in the last two days. Amena was beaten up after she locked in a quarrel with Taslee, said the police quoting the witnesses.

The police sent the body to morgue for autopsy.

BCL at it again

FROM PAGE 1
sharp weapons injured Fardin Ahmed, fourth year student of Islamic studies, Azijul Islam, final year student of physics, and Tanim Ahmed, master's student of accounting.

Immediately afterwards, Opu's men equipped with iron rods, hockey sticks, machetes, Chinese axes, sharp weapons and firearms chased their rivals.

Later, supporters of both the factions locked in a clash in front of Madar Bux and Suhrawardi halls, leaving two students -- Manirul Islam of finance and Nahid Hasan of management -- hacked.

During the melee, Opu group fired gunshots near Madar Bux Hall and chased their rivals leaving Mehedi Hossain of Sanskrit and Shakib Ahmed of chemistry bullet-hit.

Joy group returned fire and made a counter chase on its rivals. The sources say around 12 bullets were fired during the clash.

In a separate attack, Opu's men severely stabbed Delwar Hossain of anthropology and Shariful Islam of management in front of third science building and Suhrawardi Hall premises.

On information, the university proctorial body along with law enforcers rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control.

The injured were admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital after giving first aid at the university medical centre. Of them, Fardin Ahmed, Azijul Islam, Tanim Ahmed and Shariful Islam were in a critical condition.

A tense situation has been prevailing on the campus.

Awal Kabir put the blame on Opu and alleged that he is trying to establish supremacy on the campus. Opu denied the allegation saying the clash erupted as Joy's men hacked three of his supporters over a trifling matter.

Vice-chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan said he would take stern action against the people trying to destabilise congenial atmosphere on the campus.

Officer-in-Charge of Motihar police Abul Khair said additional police personnel have been deployed to avert any untoward situation.

HR violation

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In his speech, the DMP commissioner stressed the need for reforms in the police ordinance.

"Proper policing is not possible with the age-old police ordinance enacted in 1961. Police force was then formed to rule the people not to serve them", Shahidul Hoque said. "But reforms are not being done due to interference of a vested quarter."

He also said at least 90 percent cases are dismissed by courts due to faulty prosecution system and flawed laws, but police are blamed for this.

Some police officials said while policemen themselves do not have human rights, how could they ensure human rights of others.

They also said they get poor pay and they have to do overtime duties without any payment. And this makes many of the policemen to go for earning money otherwise such as taking bribes.

Police at times torture arrestees to extract information from them as they (police) do not have proper logistics for quizzing, said the officials.

New power link

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organisations working for solar energy to make it popular to the people in the country.

Speaking as the special guest Anwar Hossain, vice chancellor of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, said the government should include a provision for the National Building Code to set up solar panel in every commercial and residential building.

He also described the workshop as torchbearer to all for making solar energy system popular not only in the country but also in South Asia.

Presenting an overview on rural electrification through solar power, Islam Sharif, executive director of Infrastructure Development Company, said over 4,23,000 units of Solar Home System have been installed in rural areas across the country.

The renewable energy sources such as Solar system, Bio-gas technology, Improved cooking stove save approximately Tk 260 crore per year.

Muhammad Pervaz, programme leader of Saarc Energy Centre, Abser Kamal, acting managing director of Grameen Shakti, its Senior Manager Fazley Rabbi and representatives from Saarc countries were, among others, present at the function.



The 250-bed hospital in Patuakhali where only 22 doctors are charged with the daunting task of providing all the patients with medical care.

4 out of 17 join Patuakhali duties

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are hardly found in this hospital. I do not know what to do now," said Yasin Miah.

Golam Mostafa Talukder, senior vice president of Patuakhali Chamber of Commerce, said the hospital only adds to the sufferings of the patients rather than curing them.

"As proper treatment is scarce here, every day many people pay high fares for ambulances to shift their patients to Barisal," Talukder said.

Ziaul Karim, acting residential medical officer (RMO) of the hospital, said, "It is a tough challenge to run such big hospital with a handful of doctors. With so many patients coming to the hospital from eight upazilas, we are simply unable to cope with the pressure."

Barisal division Health Director SM Abul Khayer told The Daily Star that sooner after issuing the transfer order to the physicians he had to review his decision and issue a fresh directive.

"According to the new directive, the 17 doctors posted to Patuakhali general

hospital will join there after replacements are found for their present post. We transferred those doctors from important posts in Barisal Sadar and other health complexes and need to find their replacements before the leave for Patuakhali," said Abul Khayer.

The director also said that transfers of a few doctors had to be cancelled due to "recommendations" from a minister and Member of Parliament.

"We are aware of the present situation at Patuakhali hospital and trying our best to tackle it," Abul Khayer said. He, however, refuted that the hospital needed 58 doctors and said, "Some more doctors would soon join the hospital."

Sources in Barisal health directorate said the director came under tremendous pressure from high ups as soon as the transfer notifications were issued on June 21.

"Most government doctors are so influential that they can run the show as they wish," said an administrative officer requesting anonymity.

Sources in health department said despite the prime

minister's recent warning to absenting doctors, it would be hard to find physicians willing to work in rural areas. This is mainly because of less income and lack of proper housing and schooling for their children. So whenever transferred, the government doctors employ everything in their power to stop the order.

The physicians transferred to Patuakhali general hospital under the June 21 order included Dr. Md. Ali Ahsan (code no. 112858), Dr. Md. Ekramul Kabir (35096), Dr. Nittananda Chowdhury (35107), Dr. Md. Sirajuddin (39405), Dr. HM Habibur Rahman (114663), Dr. Masud Hasan (113444), Dr. Md. Zahidul Islam (112697), Dr. Md. Abdur Rouf (114763), Dr. Md. Al-Amin (No code), Dr. Mohammad Shahidul Islam (No code), Dr. Md. Ashfaq Delwar (No code), Dr. Md. Masudur Rahman (No code), Dr. Md. Nurul Haque Mia (Code No. 1005641), Dr. Mostafa Kamrul Islam (No code), Dr. Soheb Mahmud (No code), Dr. Md. Mahmudul Hasan (No code) and Dr. Feroz Kibria (No code).

10 hurt

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Saidur, Arif, Motaher, Abdul Hai and Ibrahim Hossain. Identities of the two other victims could not be ascertained. The injured were sent to Tangail and Dhaka for treatment.

Angered at the Ahmadiyya move to raise a mosque, the mob attacked them with brick chips and bamboo sticks. They also vandalised several houses and two poultry farms owned by the Ahmadiyya community, police sources said.

A police team from Ghatail Police Station rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mominur Rahman confirmed the incident. "No one was arrested and no case was filed in this regard till 5:15pm," added the OC.

The villagers of the same locality in an attack on June 17 foiled another move to construct the mosque.

Local Muslims under the banner of 'Imam Parishad' held procession and rally in the village against 40 Ahmadiyya families and also declared to resist the construction of the mosque at any cost.

Mirza Ghulam Ahmad founded the movement Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at (community) on March 23, 1889, envisioning it to be a revitalisation of Islam. Ahmadiyyas consider themselves Muslims and claim to practice Islam in its pristine form.

40 injured

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A few workers also jumped from the second and third floors of the building, witnesses said.

Masum, executive (Admin) of Azim Group, said there was no fire incident at the factory but someone set the alarm off after a transformer had burst near the building.

Twenty of the injured received treatment at the medical centre of the factory while others were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), he said.

He also said more than 5,000 workers were on duty at 10 factories of the same company in the building during the incident. Workers on the other floors were made aware of the false alarm and prevented from joining the mad rush, Masum added.

Production at the factories resumed at about 1:30pm. Of the injured, the condition of one identified as Hasina Begum was stated to be critical, CMCH sources said.

UN talks founder as climate impacts mount

Say delegates

AFP, Paris

UN climate talks tasked with curbing the threat of global warming are backsliding, delegates from both rich and developing nations said Friday at the close of a week-long session in Bonn.

Even as evidence mounts that deadly impacts are upon us, negotiators said, chances for a compromise deal under the 194-nation UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are slipping away amid furious finger pointing.

"These negotiations have if anything gone backwards," said the EU's climate action commissioner Connie Hedegaard.

"This imbalance is not helpful and could seriously endanger the prospects of securing the successful outcome the world needs from the Cancun climate conference next December" in Mexico.

"At this pace the world will simply collectively miss the train," she warned.

Record global temperatures, forest fires in Russia, lethal floods in Pakistan "are all consistent with the kind of changes we could expect from climate change, and they will get worse if we don't act quickly," said US negotiator Jonathan Pershing.

"Unfortunately, what we have seen over and over this

Harakat-ul

FROM PAGE 16
States labelled a "Specially Designated Global Terrorist," will have any of its assets in US jurisdiction frozen, and the listing will also "prohibit US persons from engaging in any transactions with him."

In New York, a UN Security Council panel confirmed that Harakat-ul Jihad al-Islami (Huji) and Kashmiri were being added to its blacklist of individuals and entities linked to the al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

The UN blacklist was established under UN Security Council Resolution 1267, adopted in October 1999 for the purpose of overseeing implementation of sanctions imposed on Taliban-controlled Afghanistan for its support of Osama bin Laden's extremist network.

Under the resolution, UN member states are required to impose travel bans, an asset freeze and an arms embargo on any individual or entity associated with al-Qaeda, bin Laden and/or the Taliban.

Rundown taxi

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Taxi was introduced in the capital in 1999, which collapsed within a few years. Currently about 80 percent of the taxis are out of service.

The owners blame selection of wrong vehicles, untrained drivers, carjacking and road condition as major reasons behind the dismal state of the sector.

According to BRTA, out of 10,857 registered taxis in Dhaka around 7,500 taxis have been discarded over fitness issue.

However, many taxis especially the black ones are still on the streets in a run-down condition without fitness certificates, said BRTA officials.

Meanwhile, the owners claimed that all the companies except Navana have gone bankrupt.

To salvage the sector government about a year ago announced the taxi sector as a sick industry and relieved the companies from the burden of paying loan interest. But they are to pay their loan amounts back.

"The new policy will improve the service for the commuters. For instance, the replacement policy will increase the number of taxis," says SR Khan, president of the Cab Association of Bangladesh.

Owners will also have some additional perks under the revised policy, which is already being appreciated by the taxi owners association, he added.

SR Khan explained that under the current policy taxis were registered as private cars, which required payment of around Tk 60,000 as fee. "A separate registration criteria with reduced amount of fee is being proposed this time," Khan said.

week is that some countries are walking back from the progress made in Copenhagen," he told journalists, referring to the 11th-hour accord hammered out at the climate summit in December.

The Copenhagen Accord enshrined the goal of capping the increase of global temperatures at 2.0 degree Celsius (3.6 degree Fahrenheit), but did not muster the commitments needed to attain it.

It also pledged long-term financing to the tune of 100 billion dollars a year to help poor countries green their economies and cope with climate change impacts, but without specifying where the money would come from.

Dessima Williams of Grenada, speaking for the 43-nation Association of Small Island States, said she was "greatly concerned" by the slow pace of the talks.

China gold mine

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left trapped, a spokesman for the rescue headquarters was quoted as saying.

Rescuers then gradually managed to pull more workers out until the last seven were rescued earlier Saturday.

Dozens of injured miners were sent to nearby hospitals, and most of these did not have life-threatening conditions, doctors were quoted as saying.

"We smelt a pungent odour and suspected something might have gone wrong. We closed the vents and waited to be rescued," said Lu Ming, one of the miners being treated in hospital, according to Xinhua.

The work safety bureaus in Zhaoyuan and Shandong refused to comment on the accident when contacted by AFP, and calls to the city and provincial governments went unanswered.

According to an initial investigation, the blaze broke out in a shaft at the gold mine when an electric cable caught fire. The mine was fully licensed but police have taken the director in for questioning, Xinhua said.

Meanwhile, a gas outburst at a coal mine in the south-western province of Sichuan on Saturday trapped six miners underground, the report said, in yet another accident in the sector.

China's mining industry is plagued by lax regulation, corruption and inefficiency.

Mother sued

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their bodies and set them on fire with a matchstick.

The SI said witnesses told him that Bilashi set fire to herself and her two children in her attempt to commit suicide.

He said he filed the case since no family members of the victims came forward to file the case.

"Neither the mother nor the father has the right to kill their children. Besides, it is a punishable offence to commit or attempt suicide," DMP Commissioner Shahidul Hoque said, adding, "Children should never become victims of their parents' feud."

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, National Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman welcomed the legal steps against the mother and said, "Every child has the right to live and none has the right to take away the life of anybody."

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) Executive Director Sultana Kamal, also a former adviser to a caretaker government, said, "Bilashi's husband Syed Rajeeb Ali should be punished for torturing her and provoking her to commit suicide. But Bilashi committed the crime by taking away the rights (to live) of her children."

"It might be that Bilashi's distress led her to attempt suicide but killing her children was an expression of her selfishness and vindictive mentality."

Meanwhile, Bilashi's detained husband Rajeeb was produced before a Dhaka court yesterday with a prayer for seven days' remand. Her brother Selimuzzaman had filed a case against Rajeeb in connection with torturing his sister Bilashi, demanding dowry and provoking her to commit suicide.

PM, Indian FM

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enclaves, food procurement, strengthening railway connectivity and increasing regional connectivity involving Nepal and Bhutan.

Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Rajeev Mitter and other officials of the commission accompanied Pranab.

From Bangladesh side, Finance Minister AMA Muhih, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Advisers to the PM Gowher Rizvi, Mashiur Rahman, Ambassador at-large M Ziauddin and Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi Tariq A Karim were present at the meeting.

Pranab came to Dhaka on a four-hour visit to witness the signing of the credit agreement. The Indian credit will be utilised for a range of projects including development of communication infrastructure.

Meanwhile, Muhih described as "utterly false" the opposition contention that the rate of interest of Indian credit is higher than that of the World Bank and ADB.

Muhih, who sat beside his Indian counterpart at the press conference after the signing of the loan agreement, said they have signed similar agreement in the past with 5 percent interest and repayment period of 15 years.

Calling the terms and conditions of the Indian credit

as good, he said interest rate is 1.75 percent and commitment charge is 0.5 percent.

Muhih wondered how the opposition statement was made. "This is utterly false," he said.

He said the size of the credit is more than double the assistance Bangladesh received from India over the last 40 years.

Muhih, who held a meeting with Pranab, said they covered the areas of trade, power, food and the loan agreement.

He said border markets will start functioning very shortly. The two countries signed MoU on the power sector and Bangladesh will get power from India in 2012.

On the issue of transit, Muhih said Bangladesh is going to be an important transit country in South Asia making transit between Bangladesh and India, Bangladesh and Bhutan, Bangladesh and Nepal, and perhaps Bangladesh and Myanmar and Bangladesh and China through Myanmar.

Asked about Indian investment in Bangladesh, he said that in terms of principles, opportunity for foreign investment in Bangladesh is very good. "But difficulty is in implementation," Muhih said, adding the Board of Investment is trying to improve it.