5 US troops killed in Afghan violence

killed in Afghanistan to eight.

The Baltic country has some

160 soldiers in Afghanistan as

coalition deaths have come in

southern and eastern

Afghanistan where the

Taliban insurgency is most

deeply entrenched and where

est to the mountainous

border with Pakistan, where

insurgents maintain safe

havens and training bases to

instruct recruits, including

foreign fighters, who are

later infiltrated into

warned casualties will mount

as coalition and Afghan forces

enter areas under long time

Taliban control, particularly

in the hard-line Islamic move-

ment's spiritual heartland of

Kandahar province. The Nato

force swelled this month to

more than 140,000 including

100,000 Americans with the

arrival of the last of the rein-

forcements that President

Barack Obama ordered to

Afghanistan in a bid to turn

the tide of the nearly nine-

said it killed two insurgents

and wounded a third in an air

strike Monday on a Taliban

commander in charge of

logistics in Kandahar, includ-

ing the coordination of home-

A number of Taliban and

allied Haqqani Network

commanders were also

detained in operations

Monday, including one

recently returned from teach-

ing bomb-making techniques

ing Kandahar, insurgents on

Monday night ambushed a

convoy carrying food and

other supplies, killing two

private security guards and

wounding five others, provin-

cial government spokesman

Mohammad Jan Rasoolyar

questioned by

Swedish cops

WikiLeaks founder Julian

Assange has been questioned

by Swedish police about an

allegation that he mistreated a

woman, his lawyer said yester-

an Australian citizen, was

questioned by police in

Stockholm for about an hour

late Monday and was formally

informed of the suspicions

against him. Silbersky said his

client denies the allegation

and is hopeful prosecutors will

Assange earlier this month

after two Swedish women

accused him of rape and

molestation, but prosecutors

later closed the rape investiga-

tion. Molestation is not a sex

crime under Swedish law. It

covers offences such as reck-

less conduct or inappropriate

physical contact. It can result

in fines or up to one year in

Sweden partly to seek legal

protection for WikiLeaks, has

suggested that the accusa-

tions are part of a smear cam-

The whistle-blower's

Assange, who was in

Police began investigating

drop the case.

prison.

Leif Silbersky said Assange,

WikiLeaks

founder

AP, Stockholm

In Zabul province border-

in Pakistan, Nato said.

made bomb attacks.

Also Tuesday, the coalition

Nato commanders have

Afghanistan.

Those areas are also clos-

fighting has been heaviest.

Almost all of the recent

part of the Nato-led force.

AP, Kabul

Roadside bombs and insurgent fire killed five more US troops in southern and eastern Afghanistan yesterday, which has left 19 service members dead since Saturday.

Meanwhile, on the southern outskirts of the capital, Kabul, a gunman opened fire on a busload of Afghan Supreme Court clerks, killing three and wounding 12, the Interior Ministry reported. Assailants on two motor-

cycles halted the bus Tuesday morning in the Musayi district, an area where insurgents are active, court spokesman Abdul Malik Kamawi said. One gunman then boarded the bus and opened fire with an automatic weapon, killing two people, Kamawi said. A third died later in a hospital.

"We're trying to find out who they were. For now, we can only say they are the enemies of the Afghan people," Kamawi said.

Suspicion immediately fell on Taliban insurgents who have waged a continuous campaign against Afghan government officials and institutions and have stepped up attacks in the run-up to Sept 18 elections for the lower house of parliament. Candidates and their aides have been threatened, kidnapped and killed, and many voters say they plan to stay away from the polls for fear of violence.

Nato said four troops were killed by a roadside bomb in eastern Afghanistan, while a fifth died in an insurgent attack in the country's south. No other details were given and the service members were not identified by name, as is standard procedure.

The deaths bring this month's total to 55, including a Marine killed in fighting in the volatile southern province of Helmand on Friday whose death was not announced until Monday night. That is still fewer than the 66 killed in July, the deadliest month for US troops in Afghanistan since the 2001

A 20-year-old Estonian soldier was also killed by an explosion in the southern province of Helmand when a roadside bomb struck the armoured personnel carrier

he was driving. The death brought the total of Estonian soldiers

Girl found

FROM PAGE 16

teacher, who lives in the same building, found her lying on the ground at around 12:15am, and rushed her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. But the doctors on duty there said she had already died.

DMCH sources said the oody bore a gash in the neck.

Police said the teacher who took the girl to DMCH had come out of the building after hearing a heavy thud.

Ex-BCIC boss

questions.

Earlier on Sunday, Criminal Investigation Department officials quizzed him for nearly three hours at the CID headquarters about his links to the arms and ammunition, seized at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Company Limited (CUFL) jetty on April 2, 2004, interrogation

sources said. Summoned, Imamuzzaman appeared at the CID office

around noon. Internet site has angered Interrogators questioned Washington by publishing him for about an hour on some specific information and his thousands of leaked documents about US military role as the BCIC chairman in the first half of 2004, a CID official activities in Iraq and told The Daily Star in return for

Earlier, Hafizur Rahman,

orime accused in the case, in a

confessional statement said

high officials of National

Security Intelligence,

Directorate General of Forces

Intelligence and CUFL were

involved in the botched bid to

Following up the informa-

tion, CID arrested two former

NSI director generals--Major

Gen (retd) Rezzaqul Haider

Chowdhury and Brigadier Gen

(retd) M Abdur Rahim--former

NSI director wing commander

Akbar Hossain, former CUFL

Talukder and General Manager

Enamul Haq.

Afghanistan. The group has said it has anonymity. They also asked him if he computer servers in Sweden knew that the then additional secretary of the industries ministry, Nurul Amin, was at the CUFL guesthouse at that time.

and other countries and according to the Swedish migration board Assange has applied for a work and resi-Imamuzzaman replied in dency permit in Sweden. the negative to most of the

Investigators have not released details about the accusations against Assange, though a police report obtained by The Associated Press shows both women had befriended him in connection with a seminar he gave in Stockholm on Aug. 14. The report shows they filed their smuggle the arms and ammunicomplaints together six days later.

> The chief prosecutor in the case, Eva Finne, declined to comment Tuesday.

> The women's lawyer, Claes Borgstrom, has demanded a revision of the prosecutor's decision to close the rape investigation, saying both complaints should be investi-

(retd) Sahab Uddin, former NSI deputy director Maj (retd) gated as sex crimes. Liakat Hossain, NSI field officer A separate prosecutor's office in Goteborg, Sweden, is managing director Mohsin investigating Borgstrom's

complaint.

Russian pilots kidnapped in Darfur freed

AP, Khartoum

Three Russian pilots snatched by gunmen in Sudan's restive Darfur region were freed by security forces after a clash with their kidnappers, the governor of the province told state media yesterday.

Abdel-Hameed Moussa Kasha told the official Sudan Media Center that security forces fought with the kidnappers late Monday night before freeing the men, who worked for a company transporting food for the UN-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur.

The men were grabbed on Sunday after leaving the airfield in Nyala, the provincial capital of South Darfur province, and soon afterward the military said they had identified where they were being held.

Military spokesman Sawarmy Khaled originally said there were only two pilots.

The abduction came a month after another Russian pilot was kidnapped by Janjaweed militiamen in the western Sudanese province after he had to make an emergency landing of his helicopter. That pilot was also eventually recovered.

New IGP vows

he took over the charges from the departing police chief Nur Mohammad vesterday.

The government on Monday had appointed Hassan Mahmood as the new IGP and Rajshahi range deputy inspector general (DIG) of police Mohammad Mukhlesur Rahman as the new Rab DG.

Replying to a query, Hassan Mahmood said implementation of the police reform programme is an ongoing process and that he will try to continue it in cooperation with the government. Asked about irregularities in

that there are a few persons in every department of the government who are involved in corruption and irregularities. "I'll try to check such illicit

police department, he observed

activities and if anybody is found guilty, he would be punished," Mahmood cautioned. Hailing from Peergachha

upazila of Rangpur, Hassan Mahmood joined the police department in 1984 as a mem ber of the BCS (Bangladesh Civil Service) cadre of the 1982 batch He completed his honours

and master's degrees in English from the University of Dhaka. He was appointed as the Rab DG during the immediate past caretaker government in

February 2007. Sources said before handing over the charges, departing IGP Nur Mohammad held a meeting with the new IGP where additional IGPs Javed Patwary and Naim Ahmed and other senior police personnel were

According to the meeting sources, Nur Mohammad asked the police personnel to be vocal and active to realise the demands of the police depart-

Nur Mohammad, who played a crucial role following the BDR mutiny last year, has been attached to the foreign ministry. He served as the IGP since January 29, 2007.

Khaleda in KSA

FROM PAGE 1

then to bring necessary changes in this regard. But that changes never came. Khaleda once again went abroad without nominating anyone as acting party chief.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, however, defended his chairperson, "This is not a problem. Because in absence of the chairperson, the secretary general will discharge responsibilities of the chair-

Senior parliamentarian and member of the party's standing committee Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury termed this "nothing new" for both the party and the government. "Everything depends on political culture and reality. Political parties give priority to reality," he added.

BNP has amended its constitution in such a way that appointment of anyone as acting chairperson is not possible. Even though there was a lot of talk about decentralising the part's power during the reign of the last caretaker government BNP did not amend its constitution accordingly at its national council on December 8,2009.

During the council, the council members of BNP created a post of senior vice chairman who would act as acting chairperson during temporary absence of the chairperson.

decentralising power.

vice chair.

is accused of helping militant leader Moulana Mohammad Tajuddin, who supplied the The party then elected grenades. Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Duke had fled the country Rahman as the senior vice at the directives of the high chairman ensuring the family's firm grip on the party instead of

Avenue.

command of then Prime Minister's Office. The law enforcement The party constitution does agency showed Duke arrested not mention anything about who would lead the party in after he was summoned to absence of the chair and senior CID's Malibagh office for the

second time on August 25.

Pollution warnings

NEWS

FROM PAGE 1 their own ETPs.

Following a writ petition, the High Court ordered the DoE on June 23, 2009 to make sure that all the polluter industries install ETPs by June 2010.

But most of the polluters ignored the order only to increase their profit, comments a DoE official.

Asked why most of the industrialists have not installed ETPs despite the court order and instruction of the DoE, Fazlul Haque, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), said a master plan is needed in this regard. "The court gave us reason-

able time to set up ETPs. But there was a problem in execution level. So, around 50 percent of the knitwear and dyeing industries did not install it," said Fazlul Haque.

Currently, there are around 400 knitwear and fabrics dyeing industries operating in and around the city.

Over the last 10 years, major industrialisation in the Dhaka watershed has been observed, especially in dyeing, washing and textiles sectors. It is estimated that there are

more than 7,000 industries of red, orange and green categories in and around Dhaka metropolis discharging more than 61 percent waste directly into the Turag, Balu, Buriganga, Shitalakhya and Bangshai

The pollution level is so severe that no aquatic species can survive in these rivers during the lean period, found a joint study conducted by the Institute of Water Modeling (IWM) with the help of the World Bank.

The DoE has recently made a list of 18 large knitting and dyeing industries operating in Gazipur, Savar, Narayanganj and Narsingdi, that never installed any ETP or took any environment clearance certificate from it. These industries, estab-

lished in between 1974 and 2008, are discharging liquid waste directly into the nearby rivers, canals or other wetland polluting them severely. All these 18 industries are

classified as "red category" according to the definition of the Environment Preservation Act. Building ETP and taking environment clearance certificates is mandatory for them.

Asked what measures the

Twelve projects proposed by

different non-government

organisations to cope with the

adverse effects of climate

change were placed before the

board, of which four were

approved costing Tk 87.95

The fate of the remaining

The other projects which

obtained approval are, a

botanical garden in the city of

Chittagong worth Tk 22.80

crore, digital mapping of

forests of Bangladesh at Tk 25

crore and repair of Kumira

ferry terminal at Tk 2.75 crore.

75,000 dollars for covering

expenses such as rent, and

event management in line

with the United Nations con-

ference for climate change to

be held in December in

Finance minister Abul Maal

Muhit, Minister of Food and

Disaster management Dr.

Abdur Razzaque, Health

Minister AFM Ruhal Haque,

Shipping Minister Shahjahan

Khan, State Minister for Water

Resources Mahbubur Rahman,

Dr. Atiur Rahman, governor of

Bangladesh Bank, Q K Ahmed,

chairman of Palli Karma

Sahayata Foundation (PKSF)

after CID officials produced

The court also rejected

Earlier on August 26, the

CID arrested Duke for his

alleged involvement in the

August 21 grenade attack on

an Awami League rally in 2004.

workers were killed and 200

others injured in the grenade

attack at the Bangabandhu

Former naval officer Duke

Twenty-four leaders and

Duke lands

FROM PAGE 1

him before it.

Duke's bail petition.

Cancun, Mexico.

The board also approved

projects will be decided in the

next meeting.

Rubber dam

DoE took following the HC order, officials said they have sent notices to 3,544 owners of polluting industries to build

"Some of them never responded to the notices. But many others seem they do not care about the Department of Environment," said Mohammed Munir Chowdhury. "Some of the industries have

installed the ETPs after getting the notices. Unfortunately, they do not use it," said Munir Chowdhury as he fined Joya Knitting Ltd in Rupganj in Narayanganj for not using it. Talking on the matter, Fazlul

Haque defended his fellow businessman saying, "They do it to reduce operational costs. Many other industrialists have not spent money to build ETP and are making more profit," he added.

"If he operates ETP now his production cost will naturally go up," he pointed out. He however said, "Pollution

must be stopped; otherwise the city would not remain liveable anymore. I think a master plan is required in this regard."

The immediate past caretaker government had earlier directed industrialists to install ETPs at their respective industries by October 31, 2007. But most of the industrialists

defied that directive.

The Environmenta Conservation Act, 1995 was passed in parliament in February 1995 and came into force in June that year making it mandatory for the knitting and dyeing industries to set up ETPs.

However, the government has recently amended the Environment Conservation Act and established the Monitoring and Enforcement unit at the DoE. The unit conducted several drives against the polluters and realised fine of over Tk 2 crore. The evaluation and moni-

toring unit of the department is currently conducting drives against some of those indus-

"We will continue our drives until all the polluter industries build ETPs and stop polluting the environment. None of those committing crimes against environment will be spared,' said Munir Chowdhury. The unit has already realised

fine of around Tk 2.55 crore from 18 industries and filed 153 cases against mainly fabrics, dyeing and knitwear industries.

were present at the meeting.

Different agencies of the

government will implement

these projects in cooperation

with the Environment and

Earlier the government had

The board has decided to

approved 34 projects costing

Tk 335.17 crore from the fund

retain Tk 238 crore which is 34

percent of the fund as fixed

will be spent on various pro-

jects fighting the undesirable

impacts of climate change on

different pilot projects from

government and non-

government organisations and

received around 3623 projects.

to pay the dues to the raw jute

suppliers and as working

money should be provided

immediately because the peak

season for jute is now going

on. "If we cannot buy quality

jute now, it will not be possible

to reopen the jute mills," he

is on rise and if the mandatory

jute use policy for food grains

is made effective, demands

and international demands, it

is high time that the money

should be allocated immedi-

ately," said the official

Dr Khondaker Golam

Moazzem, a research fellow of

Centre for Policy Dialogue, said

take every measure so that it

subsidy to these mills to run.

In the initial period, the gov-

ernment, however, has to

and working capital in time,'

mills must have to be efficient

for competitiveness, he

The management of the

he said.

added.

requesting anonymity.

cannot be competitive.

"To meet both domestic

Demand for jute products

An official of BJMC said the

The government sought

The remaining Tk 462 crore

Forests Ministry.

of Tk 700 crore.

the environment.

FROM PAGE 16

capital.

said.

will be higher.

deposit.

BCL men

FROM PAGE 1

and sharp weapons severely beat and stabbed Mashiur Rahman near the university's transport market around 8:30pm, sources The cadres, at one stage,

inserted nails in his left leg below the knee. They also swooped on the

market's shopkeepers who came to rescue Mashiur. Later, on information,

some friends of Mashiur

came to the spot and rushed him to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in unconscious condition. Mashiur told this correspondent he was yet to find any reason behind the inci-

dent. "The cadres mounted a

sudden attack on me, as I

went to the transport market

for shopping." Some of his friends said the BCL cadres branded him as a Shibir activist because he was a roommate of a Shibir man about two years

Mashiur is a resident student of the university's Saveed Amir Ali Hall. He denied the allegation of his involvement with Shibir activities and said he was preparing to file a case with Motihar Police Station in this connection.

Abul Khair, officer-incharge of the police station, said they were unaware of the matter. "We'll take legal action if any complaint is

Contracted, Firoz Hossain, who is a first semes ter student of MBA (Management), claimed to know nothing about the attack.

RU unit BCL Joint Secretary Abu Hossain Bipu told this correspondent they would take stern action against those involved in the incident. The university proctor,

Prof Chowdhury Zakaria, said he would take steps after investigating the matter. RU unit BCL president and secretary were unavail-

able for their comments. They were recently suspended from the organisation on the allegation of their involvement in at least 30 factional clashes. The unit earned a bad

name following the growing unrest on the campus in recent months, particularly after a faction beat up a rival and shove him off the first floor of a dormitory.

Railway

FROM PAGE 16

advance tickets and option to book tickets through mobile

Crowds of ticket seekers queuing up before the counters, however, seemed indifferent to the availability of train tickets through mobile phones.

But a railway source said lots of tickets have already been booked through mobile

A total of 16 intercity trains will operate on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. Two additional trains will run on Dhaka-Dewanganj and Parbatipur-Dhaka routes from September 7 to 10 to cope with the demand.

The railway will be able to accommodate a total of 13 thousand passengers every

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Railway east zone also started selling advance tickets of intercity trains from yesterday amid tight security to facilitate the journey of homebound

people ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr. The authorities will introduce three special trains including two on Chittagong-Chandpur route and one on Chittagong-Comilla route

The advance tickets for September 5 trains were sold yesterday.

from Tuesday next.

Thus train tickets for September 6, 7, 8 and 9 will be available on September 1, 2, 3 and 4, said sources of Bangladesh Railway in Chittagong. Tickets for everyday trains

are also available during the sale of advance tickets. One passenger is allowed to buy a maximum of four tickets, said the sources. Station Manager Shamsul

it is good that the government Alam said they would monitor is reopening the closed mills, the situation through 16 but previous experiences suggest that state-owned mills CCTVs to prevent ticket sale on the black market. "We have put on display the "The government should total number of 4587 seats that

the six intercity and one does not have to provide Chandpur bound express trains have at the station to help the passengers," Shamsul provide cost for overhauling The railway authorities will

Azad.

add two to four compartments to these trains to accommodate more passengers, said Station Master Md Abul Kalam high risks of falling in danger at

PM again warns

FROM PAGE 1

"Refrain from any sort of criminal activities, otherwise you [BCL activists] will be arrested and brought to book, Hasina said, adding, "There are some people who claim to belong to the ruling party and do wrong things. You must be careful about them."

She also asked BCL leadership to immediately expel the troublemakers. The AL chief directed BCL activists to work with devotion and patriotism to revive the lost glory of student politics and build a prosperous digital Bangladesh.

She urged Chhatra League activists to concentrate in studies. "You must be educated and qualified, as an illiterate leader cannot contribute much in developing a nation.

Reminiscing the glorious days of student politics and people's respect for student leaders, she said it is unfortunate for the government that military dictators have destroyed student politics.

She said, "General Ayub Khan, Ziaur Rahman and Ershad destroyed the student politics giving arms and money to students. Among them, Ziaur Rahman spoiled the overall ethics of politics for which many politicians now get involved in politics to earn money."

The defeated forces of the 1971 Liberation War killed the Father of the Nation and destroyed the constitution and democracy, she continued. Hasina also thanked the

Dhaka University vice chancel lor for cancelling Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's expulsion in 1950 from the university. Addressing the discussion,

AL presidium member Obaidul

Quader said a conspiracy is still on to repeat the tragedy of August 15, 1975. The government should bring qualitative changes in its activities to reply to opposition threats of antigovernment movements.

He urged BCL leaders to prepare themselves to implement the charter for changes, which the AL chief promised in the election manifesto.

He also urged the premier to set up a research university named after Bangabandhu to ensure quality education. DU Vice Chancellor AAMS

Arefin Siddique said every BCL activist should be self-rectified if they want to build a "Golden Bengal" as dreamt by the Father of the Nation. They should be careful so that no one can tarnish their image.

He said, "Every Chhatra League activist will have to be responsible and use every moment of their time prop-

Bangabandhu made a nation independent, as he had valued his time, said the DU VC, adding, "So you [BCL activists] need to take an oath to serve the nation as Bangabandhu did."

During his speech, Prof Siddique demanded that the government bring the convicted fugitive killers of Bangabandhu back to the country. He also urged the government to expedite the trial of war criminals. Chittagong University

professor Hamida Banu, renowned journalist Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, BCL General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton also spoke at the discussion chaired by BCL president Mahmud Hasan

Pay hike agitation ments annually. But under the

suspension all through the

The demonstrators cleared the premises after 5:00pm, agreeing to wait until tomorrow's board meeting following day-long negotiations between the employees' and workers unions, and the management.

Leaders of the demonstrators however threatened to stop activities of the airline unless their demands are met. They demanded continuation of pension schemes, and pay hikes equivalent to what government employees got through a new pay scale announced in November last year.

"It came to me as a shock that our pension scheme is going to vanish," said a senior official of Biman, preferring not to be named. "We have made our future plans based on the pensions," the official added.

On August 28, the Biman board gave its nod to the new pay scale. The workers and employees had been demanding pay hikes since the announcement of the new pay scale for public servants.

The demonstrators said the new pay scale, that was scheduled to be announced yesterday, already came too late, and on top of that it does not meet their expectations. They claimed their salaries

have been increased 25 to 30 percent on an average, which is lower than the increase the public servants got. "We expected our salaries to be increased by 65 percent,'

said a female employee, who works for the ticket reservation department. The new Salary Structure 2010 of Biman however offers

gratuity equal to 2 months' basic pay for each service year. But the woman, who reserves tickets for passengers, is not ready to accept the offer,

Ship-breaking FROM PAGE 16

and said, "Earlier we got incre-

Rahim Steel Co under Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 1995. Sources said six workers

were killed and 11 others injured in a fire that broke out while cutting an oil tanker at the ship-breaking yard on December 26 last year. The DoE in its investigation

into Rahim Steel Co found that there were not sufficient safety measures for the workers, said According to the cleaning certificate issued by the Department of Explosives, the

ship was not free from petroleum substances and was posing health hazard to the workers, he said. The yard was asked to check pollution and submit environment management plan as

early as possible, Munir added. Another ship-breaking yard Messrs Sultana Ship-Breaking was fined Tk 7 lakh on Sunday last as one worker was killed and four others were injured in a fire that broke out while

on July 12 this year. There are a total of 122 shipbreaking yards set up without environmental clearance at the coastal belt of Sitakunda upazila in the district.

any time.

cutting an oil-tanker at the yard

new pay scale we will get incre-

Another demonstrator said, "Until today, we never thought that we would lose our pen-"The authorities have no

ments every three years."

pension," said Mushiqur Rahman, president of Biman Workers League. "Employees of state-owned Sonali and Janata banks still enjoy pension benefits despite the fact that those banks were

right to snatch away my right to

companies. Is Biman different from them?" he questioned. Zakiul Islam however said, "Generally we know that pension schemes don't exist in

turned into public limited

public limited companies." Biman was turned into a public limited company in July 2007. Zakiul admitted, the employees were not told earlier that their pension schemes would be scrapped following the transformation of Biman

Corporation. He however said it was not clear to him why the employees and workers started demonstrating, and added, "We have taken notes of their demands, and will place those before the board meeting. I am the MD, and I am answerable to the board. Whatever the board decides, that will be implemented. I hope the board will

take a right decision to protect the interest of all.' Meanwhile, ABM Akhtaruzzaman, president of the Society of Aircraft Engineers of Biman, at a gathering of the demonstrators, said, "The activities of Biman will be stopped and our movement will continue

unless our demands are met." ADB okays

FROM PAGE 16

herald further power trading agreements, resulting in the more effective use of existing energy resources in the region, said Sultan Hafeez Rahman, director general of ADB's South

will demonstrate the substantial economic benefits that come from enhanced regional cooperation and help to address energy gaps across the region," Rahman said.

Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) will be trained to manage the new facilities, while officials of the state-owned Bangladesh Power Development Board will learn cross border power trading skills.

years, with interest charged at 1% per annum during the grace period and 1.5% per year for the rest of the term.

operated by India.

agency for the project, which is due for completion in

South Asia and is likely to

Asia Department. "Connecting the two grids

Staff from the Power Grid

ADB's assistance from its concessional Asian Development Fund makes up 63% of the total investment cost for Bangladesh of \$156.8 million. The loan has a 32-year term including a grace period of eight

The balance of the investment of \$58.6 million will be funded by Bangladesh government, while interconnection facilities on the Indian side will be financed, developed and

PGCB is the executing Over 30 thousand people work in this industry. They have December 2012.