

# WB to release initial \$1.2b for Padma Bridge by Jan

BSS, Dhaka

The World Bank (WB) will release its initial \$1.2 billion (Tk 84 billion) financing package pledged for construction of the Padma Multi Purpose Bridge by next January.

WB Country Director Ellen Goldstein said this during a call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday.

This was a follow-up of the meeting of World Bank President Robert Zoellick with the Bangladesh Premier at St. Petersburg during her visit to Russia to attend the International Tiger Summit.

The World Bank now agreed to provide \$1.5 billion, Asian Development Bank \$615 million, Islamic Development Bank \$130 million, JICA \$400 million and Abudhabi Fund \$31.4 million for the \$2.9 billion mega project for constructing the bridge.

The 6.15-km Padma Bridge will unlock the economic potential of the southwest region, transferring the lives of millions of people and accelerating national growth towards middle income country status.

At the meeting with Goldstein, Hasina sought the World Bank's cooperation to start construction work of the bridge in the current dry season. Prime Minister's Deputy



WB Country Director Ellen Goldstein calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday.

Press Secretary Mohammad Nazrul Islam briefed newsmen after the meeting.

Hasina expressed her government's commitment to ensure optimum use of available resources and keep vigil against all sorts of mismanage-

ment while implementing the project.

Goldstein informed Hasina about a project being implemented by the bank for generating employment opportunities for the rural women.

Expressing satisfaction over

the project, the prime minister said the rural women would be benefited more if the project is implemented from March to April and September to October when they have no work.

## Mirpur SI sued for taking bribe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against a sub-inspector (SI) of Mirpur Police Station for taking bribe from the complainant of a case.

ACC Assistant Director Anwarul Haq filed the case with the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka against SI Rakibul Hassan of the police station.

After the hearing, Judge (vacation) Mohammad Abdul Mazid recorded statement of the complainant, took the charges into cognizance and directed the ACC to investigate into the matter and submit a report on the issue.

The case statement said the accused demanded Tk 5 lakh as bribe from one Ferdous Ara to arrest some criminals after she filed a case against five people on December 3 this year.

Following the demand, Ferdous Ara gave Tk 15,000 to SI Rakibul Hassan the same day, but Inspector (investigation) of the police station Shikder Mohammad Shamim Hossain and the SI demanded more repeatedly over cellphone.

Later, Ferdous Ara appealed to the authorities concerned of the ACC on December 7 for taking action against the police officials for their involvement with demanding bribes.

A team of ACC officials caught the SI Rakibul red-handed while receiving Tk 5,000 from the complainant at the National Heart Foundation Hospital in the city's Mirpur area on December 9, the statement added.

Rakibul was later handed over to Mirpur Police and a case was filed against him for taking bribe from the victim, but police refused to register the case against the SI as they did not get any order from the higher authorities for taking a case.

Mirpur police also released the SI without taking any action against him, the complainant alleged.

## আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত



রূপালী ইন্স্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিঃ এর পরিচালক জনাব কে এম ফারুক সাহেবের মাতা আশিয়া খাতুন মজুমদার গত ১৫/১২/২০১০ তারিখে সিঙ্গাপুর মাউন্ট এলিজাবেথ হাসপাতালে ইন্তেকাল করেছেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহে ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহে রাজেউন)। তার মৃত্যুতে রূপালী ইন্স্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিঃ এর চেয়ারম্যান, পরিচালনা পর্ষদের সদস্যবৃন্দ এবং রূপালী ইন্স্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিঃ-এর সকল শ্রেণীর নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারীবৃন্দ গভীরভাবে শোকাহত। আমরা মরহমের শোক-সন্তপ্ত পরিবারের সদস্যদের প্রতি গভীরভাবে সমবেদনা জানাচ্ছি এবং পরম করুণাময় আল্লাহ তা'লার নিকট মরহমার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি।

অদ্য সোমবার ২০/১২/২০১০ তারিখ বাদ মাগরীবি নিউ ডিওএইচএস মসজিদে মরহমার রুহের মাগফেরাত কামনায় দোয়া মাহফিল ও কুলখানির আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। উক্ত দোয়া ও মাহফিলে আপনাদের উপস্থিতি আমাদের কাম্য।

**রূপালী ইন্স্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড**

## Mishu admitted to DMCH

On 2-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Garment Sramik Oikya Parishad President Moshrefa Mishu on a two-day remand in another case filed with Khilkhet Police Station on charge of creating unrest in the garment sector recently.

Meanwhile, Mishu was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in the evening with breathing problems, said the doctors.

Later, she told journalists in the hospital that she became ill as law enforcement agency mentally tortured her.

Metropolitan Magistrate Munshi Abdul Mazid passed the order after she produced before it with a 10-day remand prayer.

## Keep education, development out of politics

Speakers urge political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Development activists and educationists yesterday called upon the political parties to keep the services like education, healthcare and social development out of party politics for the country's overall development.

They made the call at a roundtable titled "Reproductive health in curriculum: challenge of education policy and role of media" organised by the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Educationists, rights activists, development and NGO workers and journalists participated in the roundtable moderated by Executive Director of

CAMPE Rasheda K Chowdhury.

Director of Gender Studies and Diversity and Advocacy of BRAC Shepa Hafiza in her keynote paper said gender studies and reproductive health should be included in the curriculum from class five to higher education instead of secondary level which is suggested in the National Education Policy 2010.

The policy should be implemented by protecting anti-progressive forces strictly, she said.

She stressed the need for participation of the adolescents in implementing the policies and programmes on 'sex and reproductive health.'

She mentioned that choosing of proper subjects on 'sex and reproductive health' in textbooks as one of the important challenges of the government.

She urged the media to act as 'change agents' on the issue to change the mindset of general people including parents, guardians and educational activists on 'sex and reproductive health.'

National Front of Teachers and Employees Chief Coordinator Quazi Faruque Ahmed, Dhaka University teacher Dr Sadeka Halim and Steps Towards Development Executive Director Ranjan Karmakar also spoke.

## SC clears way for holding polls in five pourasavas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for holding elections to five municipalities in Cox's Bazar and Magura to be held on January 18.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division stayed for six weeks the High Court orders that stayed the process for holding elections to Cox's Bazar Sadar, Chakoria, Moheshkhali and Teknaf in Cox's Bazar, and Magura Sadar pourasavas.

The judge passed the stay orders following two separate petitions recently filed by the government for staying the HC orders.

The court also asked the government to file regular leave to appeal petitions with the apex court against the HC orders within this six weeks' period.

Following two separate writ petitions, the HC on December 14 and 15 stayed the process for holding elections to the five municipalities on different grounds.

Additional Attorney General MK Rahman and Assistant Attorney General Ekramul Haque Tutul appeared for the government while Advocate Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury stood for the petitioners.

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