

## Cold wave to continue

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already sent a fresh requisition for 20,000 blankets.

Our Rangpur correspondent reported that three newborn babies and an elderly died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital in the last two days.

The babies were aged between one and five days. Another, Ashraf Al Alam of Guptapara in Rangpur town died at 55.

Toufiqul Islam, director at the hospital, said the cold weather caused their deaths. "The babies could have been saved if the incubators of the hospitals were functional," he added.

In Kurigram, eight people died in cold-related diseases within the last 48 hours.

Civil Surgeon Dr Reazul Islam, however, said none died from cold-related ailments in the district within the last 48 hours.

The Met Office said 7.8 degrees Celsius was recorded as minimum temperature here yesterday.

The dead are Babar Ali, 72, and Anjuara Begum, 40, of Nageswari upazila, Khaibor Ali, 65, Nurul Haque, 90, Rashedul Islam, 25, of Kurigram Sadar upazila, Ajar Ali, 70, and Fulbabu, 28, of Ulipur upazila, and Abed Ali, 70, of Rajarhat upazila, our Kurigram correspondent reported.

Residential Medical Officer at Kurigram Sadar Hospital Dr Nazrul Islam said, "A total of 168 patients including 27 children have been admitted in the hospital. The children and the diarrhoea units of the hospital have been covered with polythene paper to protect patients from cold winds."

In Satkhira, three women including two octogenarians died in Tala upazila last night due to the sweeping cold. The victims are Sakhina Bibi, 80, Moyna Bibi, 85, and Asiya Khatun, 45. Of them, Moyna Bibi died of a cold stroke while others due to cold-related complications.

Contacted, Civil Surgeon Dr SZ Atique said the victims died of respiratory and cold-related diseases.

Chilly weather continued causing immense sufferings to the poor people in the district, our correspondent reported.

UNB adds: At least 16 people died in extreme cold in the last three days in Khulna.

Of the deceased, 10 were from Dacop upazila while the others in Koira upazila.

Naresh Mandal, 75, Sudhanya Mandal, 72, Fanibhushan Mandal, 67, Gobinda Mandal, 78, Ramkrishna Chakrabarti, 72, Phuljan Bibi, 78, and Marufa Begum, 57, Tarapada Halder, 72, Anarati Roy, 62, and Anowara Begum, 58, died in Dacop.

In Koira upazila the cold victims were identified as newly-born Taslima, Abul Gazi, 65, Khuku Begum, 26, Ansar Gazi, 77, Mariam Begum, 48, and Lalit Mandal, 78.

Dacop UNO Abdul Halim said elderly people might have died of cold-related diseases.

Khulna District Administrator Jamshed Ahmad Kandakar said 2,000 blankets were distributed among the cold-hit people in nine upazilas of the district.

He said several thousand more blankets would be distributed among the people.

## Chinese activist jailed for nine years

AFP, Beijing

Veteran Chinese rights activist Chen Wei was sentenced yesterday to nine years in jail for "subversion", his lawyers said, in one of the harshest penalties handed down in a crackdown launched this year.

Chen, who was a leader of the 1989 Tiananmen democracy protests, was among dozens of activists detained in February in the wake of political upheaval in the Arab world that sparked calls for anti-government demonstrations in China.

The court in Suining city in southwest Sichuan province convicted the 42-year-old after a trial lasting less than three hours over essays he had written that were critical of the Communist Party, China Human Rights Defenders said.

The sentence, for "inciting subversion of state power" was one of the toughest handed down so far to an activist detained in this year's crackdown, the group said.

After it was read out in court, Chen shouted out that he was innocent and declared "democracy will definitely prevail and dictators will definitely fall", his lawyer Liang Xiaojun told AFP.

Chen does not plan to appeal the sentence "because he feels this is a political sabotage and he does not want to perform any more pantomimes," Liang added.

## Checking dropouts

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bad condition of the road to her school.

But she has not missed any classes this year after the road got repaired.

Atiqur Rahman, headmaster of the school, said most students now come to school in the rainy season but the attendance hovered around 70-75 percent during the same period before the road was repaired.

The children's park in the school is an additional attraction for students, he added.

Several students were found waiting for their turn to get on a swing at Hosnabad Government Primary School. Many of them come to school early to play on the swings.

Rafiqul Islam, a student of class-IV of Najirpur Government Primary School, said their playground used to go under water in the rainy season. It was developed last year, and now they can use it all year round.

Rezaul Karim, headmaster of Madanpura Government Primary School, said the parishad's initiative helped increase attendance rate in his school. Now about 93 to 97 percent students attend classes, while it was 80 to 85 percent a year ago.

Sher-E-Gulkhan, headmaster of Nurainpur Government Primary School, said the children's park of the school has brought a big change. The attendance rate went up to more than 90 percent from below 80 percent.

Upazila Chairman Engineer Mojibur Rahman

said they are setting up children's park on school playgrounds to provide students with leisure facilities on instructions from Patuakhali-2 lawmaker ASM Feroz, also whip of the Jatiya Sangsad.

The parishad is spending about Tk 50,000 on each children park from its own fund. The project started in January 2010 and will end by December next year.

"We have already re-excavated 36 school ponds. Of them, 10 have been brought under fish cultivation with fisheries department's help. Another 63 will be re-excavated by next year," said Mojibur, who last year received an award from the prime minister for his role in promoting primary education in his area.

"We will take another programme to grow seasonal vegetables on unutilised school land. The profits from the sale would go to poor and helpless students for buying books and stationery," he said.

The parishad published a 472-page book Tathya Kanika. It contains names of all educational institutions in the upazila and information on students and teachers.

"We have already distributed the book to all educational institutions in the area. It will help students get in touch with each other. Upazila officials will also be able to communicate with any teachers or institutions by using the information provided in the book," said Mojibur.

Md Ibrahim, upazila primary education officer, said "We are getting good results from these steps."

Now most students go to school that has become a more interesting place for them, he added.

## ACC quizzes Abul

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the experts involved in the project's tender evaluation process and are expected to submit their reports soon.

"We are also going through various documents of the project and asked participating companies to show evidence if there were any irregularities in the bidding procedures," said one of the officials involved in questioning Abul.

"We quizzed Abul Hossain to know what he has to say in self-defence as the allegations involve his name," the official said before mentioning the minister's denial of the allegation.

This is for the first time an incumbent minister in Bangladesh has been quizzed by the ACC on corruption charges. His party, the Awami League, is ruling the country with absolute majority.

Abul was removed from the communications ministry earlier this month and was given the ICT ministry.

The anti-graft body officials claimed that it was their own decision to quiz Abul in the investigation initiated following weeks of media outcry and a World Bank letter to the finance ministry regarding the corruption allegation.

Abul had told the ACC officials that no individual or organisation in the world would be able to prove corruption in the Padma bridge project.

"I maintained the highest level of transparency and honesty in my work during my time as the communications minister. None can prove irregularities in my activities," he told The Daily

Star over the telephone yesterday.

He said the government can release all documents of his work on the internet so that everyone can judge. "Inshallah, truth will be revealed in future and you will see how transparent and honest I am."

The WB in November this year, in an official reply to the ACC, hinted that officials of Canadian SNC-Lavalin, a bidder for the main bridge's construction supervision job, agreed with government officials on paying money to obtain the job.

Following the WB's request, Canadian police is investigating the allegation against Lavalin.

Earlier, the WB, the lead financier of the project, suspended its funding in the project bringing allegation of corruption against Abul, stalling construction of the much-cherished bridge.

The WB is providing \$1.2 billion, Asian Development Bank \$615 million, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) \$400 million and Islamic Development Bank \$140 million for construction of the bridge.

An investigation report by the Integrity Vice-Presidency (INT) of WB Group revealed that Abul and senior representatives of his family-owned company SAHCO tried to coerce multiple companies into using SAHCO as a paid "silent agent" for getting permission to bid for the main bridge contract.

Companies failing to cooperate were threatened with retaliation, said the report. As these witnesses feared physical and economic reprisal, they only

spoke to INT with the promise of confidentiality. INT interviewed representatives of multiple companies.

WB's Integrity Vice-President Leonard F McCarthy, on September 21, handed over a highly confidential letter and the INT report to Finance Minister AMA Muhith in Washington.


In vehement rejection of the report Abul then said some foreign companies and their local agents, who had been rejected by the technical evaluation committee, made up stories and fed the WB so that the project is delayed and a scope for re-tender is created.

On SAHCO, he said, "The company is not new, it has been around for a while and has been involved in business with reputation. Since my resignation from the post of the managing director of the company following my appointment as a minister, SAHCO has been run by a competent Board of Directors and officials."

The 6.15km-long bridge over the Padma and 3.68km approach roads on both the sides will connect the country's 19 south-western districts with the capital. The bridge will have road traffic on the upper level and rail on the lower.

The feasibility study and design of the Padma bridge were completed in 2010 and the construction work was supposed to begin this year with a target of finishing it by 2014.

The government by this time has spent over Tk 1,000 crore for the design, land acquisition, compensation and rehabilitation of the affected people.



**Eastern Bank Ltd.**  
Head Office: 10 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka 1000  
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### Sale of Used Vehicle

Eastern Bank Limited (EBL) will dispose off the following used vehicles through tender as it is where it is basis. The list of vehicles is as under:

SL	Brand	Model	CC	Registration No.
01.	Volvo Sedan Car	2003	1984	DM-GA-15-8143
02.	Honda Civic Sedan Car	2006	1799	DM-GA-19-0424

It is to be noted that the vehicle can be inspected at the basement of EBL Head Office at Jiban Bima Bhaban, 10, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000 on any working day starting from 26 December 2011 to 02 January 2012 (Time: 11.00 am - 3.00 pm). Earnest money (refundable) @ 10% of the quoted price favoring Eastern Bank Limited, in the form of Pay Order/Draft shall have to be deposited along with the Quotation. Applicable AIT & VAT will be included in addition to the quoted price and that will be borne by the successful bidder as per Tax Rules. Tender Schedule will be available at EBL Corporate Head Office, Administration Department, Dhaka. Sealed Quotation is to be dropped from 11.00 am to 02.00 pm on 03 January, 2012 in the Tender Box to be kept in the EBL Head Office (Ground floor) at Jiban Bima Bhaban, 10, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. Sealed Quotation will be opened on the same day at 03.00 pm in presence of the bidders or their representatives, if any.

The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations. The decision of EBL Management shall be regarded as final in all respect.

Transport Officer

Head of Administration



## Vacancy Announcement

### Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

**United Nations Development Programme** in Bangladesh announces vacancy for the following position for "Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility" under "Service Contract" modality. The duration of the contract is one year initially and subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of Funds.

**Advocacy Officer - 1 position**

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Hard copy of the TOR can be collected from UNDP-CHTDF Offices of Dhaka, Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban. Applications should be submitted no later **January 9, 2012**

*"Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants"*

*"Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply"*

## Postgraduate Admissions

### SPRING 2012

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*with concentrations in*  
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**Application Deadline: 29 Dec 2011      Admission Test/Interviews: 30 Dec 2011**

For Admission Form and further details contact the Admissions Office, BRAC University, 66 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212 or visit our website at [www.bracu.ac.bd](http://www.bracu.ac.bd), Phones: 8824051-4 ext. 4003, Fax: 8810383, email: [info@bracu.ac.bd](mailto:info@bracu.ac.bd). **Prospective candidates are strongly advised to visit the respective Departments in person before submitting the application form.**

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## NOTICE FOR NEW ENLISTMENT AND RENEWAL OF OLD PRODUCERS and VENDORS/SUPPLIERS

Islamic Relief Worldwide is an International Development Organization established in 1984 and registered with the UK government charity commission. It has a consultative status with UN Economic and Social Council. It is a member of Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies (CBHA), Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC), European Confederation of Development and Relief NGOs (CONCORD), British Overseas NGOs for Development and International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement. Islamic Relief Worldwide-Bangladesh (IRW-B) started its works in Bangladesh regardless of race, religion and gender and is involved in nation-building since 1991. Islamic Relief seeks to promote sustainable economic and social empowerment by working with local communities in times of disasters as well as through development programs in the sectors of child rights, gender, water and sanitation, education, sustainable livelihoods and disaster risk reduction.

IR is currently seeking applications to enlist highly experience Firms, Manufacturers, Dealers, Sole agents and distributors, General Suppliers and service providers for following groups for at least **three years**. The validity of enlistment can be further renewed based on performance and provision of service.

01. Office Stationery and Equipment Suppliers
02. Printing and Packaging Firm.
03. Air Travel Agent and Money Exchange Firm.
04. Various Seed Suppliers.
05. Courier Service (Local and International)
06. Cleaning and Forwarding Agent.
07. Office Furniture Suppliers.
08. Vehicle Provider Firm ( Rent – A – Car/ Micro Bus / Jeep)
09. Transport Firm (Bus/Truck/ Pick-up) for carrying goods.
10. Electric and Electronics goods suppliers.
11. Consumable Items Suppliers (Like: Powder Milk, Sugar & Coffee).
12. Cleaning Materials (Like: Vim powder, Liquid soap, Soap, Brush, Towel etc)
13. Supplier for Vehicle, Motor bike, Car, Pick-up, Generator, Rickshaw and Bicycle)
14. Security Service Provider and Building maintenance Firm.
15. Different types of Bags, T-Shirts, Polo Shirts suppliers.
16. Computer and Accessories Suppliers.
17. Construction Firm (Shelter, PSF, Latrine, Tube well etc.)
18. Residential Hotel/Rest House and Restaurant with training room facilities.

19. Internet Service Provider.
20. Vehicle repair and maintenance service provider.
21. Video Document Development Firm.
22. Advertising Firm (Print and Electronic Media)
23. Insurance Service Provider (For life Insurance, Assets and Equipment Insurance, Vehicle Insurance, Cash insurance, etc).
24. Event Management Service Provider.
25. Audit Firm (Authorized by Bangladesh Government and NGO Affairs Bureau)
26. Manufacturer of medicine company (For different type of human & animal medicine)
27. Suppliers for Emergency Relief Materials as follows (Suppliers must have an experience for emergency delivery):

**Food Items:** Rice, Suji, Lentil, Edible Oil, Iodized Salt, Sugar, Milk, bottled Purified Water, Water Purifying Tablets, ORS, etc.

**Non Food Items:** Clothes, Blankets, Shawls for women, Sweater, Mosquito net, Shari, Lungie, Match lighter, Tarpaulin, CGI Sheet, Hardware Items, Candle, Kitchen utensils, Lime, Bleaching Powder, Jerry can, etc.

**All the interested producers and vendors must provide the following documents with their application:**

1. Photo copy of valid trade license
2. Photo copies of renewed VAT registration and Income Tax Certificate.
3. List of Items and Services of the Suppliers.
4. Two recent passport size photographs of the owner of the firm.
5. Experience/performance certificate as supplier from any reputed organization along with a list of its present customers
6. Name of the Proprietor/Partners/Managing Director with business address, telephone/fax numbers, email (if any), must be included in the application.
7. Application on letter head pad and must be signed and sealed by the owner.

**Others:**

- ❑ The validity of the enlisted panel of suppliers would normally be for a period of **three years**.
- ❑ Supplier(s) shall have the liberty to terminate the enlistment by giving one months notice from their side. Nevertheless, the Management of IRW, Bangladesh reserves the right to cancel the whole or part of the enlisted supplier at any time without assigning any reason. In this context the decision of the IRW authority shall be final and binding upon the respective supplier(s).
- ❑ Canvassing in any form whether directly or indirectly, in connection with the enlistment is strictly prohibited and the application submitted by the concerned supplier who resorts to such canvassing will be liable to rejection.

Producers/Suppliers can provide applications for different groups of items separately if they have relevant experience and papers. Present enlisted companies and/or firms also need to reapply according to the above mentioned terms and conditions.

Islamic Relief Worldwide, Bangladesh reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the applications without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**Submission of Enlistment document:**  
The interested Firms, Manufacturers, Dealers, Sole agents and distributors, General Suppliers and service providers shall submit the complete documents in all respect by registered post in a sealed envelope marked **"Supplier Enlistment in IRWB with Group name"** addressed to **Procurement & Logistics Department, Islamic Relief Worldwide-Bangladesh, House # 10, Road # 10, Block-K, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh**. The applications and supporting documents can also be dropped in the Enlistment Application Box, which will be kept in the Reception at IRW Office. The deadline for submission of Enlistment Document is **26th of January 2012 at 4:00 PM**.

Javed Ameer  
Acting country Director  
Islamic Relief Worldwide, Bangladesh