

CLIMATE CHANGE FUND 3 projects approved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The governing council of Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF) approved three projects involving Tk 566.62 crore to face the bad impacts of climate change in the country.

The council also approved three other projects in principles involving Tk 440.34 crore in a meeting of the council chaired by Environment and Forests Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud at the environment and forests ministry yesterday.

After the meeting, during a briefing to journalists Hasan Mahmud said, "So far, we have allocated 90 percent of total fund we got from development partners to ensure the highest use of the fund."

Under the projects, a total of Tk 277.16 crore will be provided to the Climate Resilient Participatory Afforestation project to be implemented by Forest Department, Tk102.50 crore to Community Climate Change Project (CCCP) to be implemented by PKSF, and Tk 186.96 crore to the Agriculture Adaptation in Climate Risk Prone Areas of Bangladesh to be implemented by Agriculture Ministry.

The remaining three projects are -- constructions of 60 cyclone centres, constructing 25 kilometres of road and building a cross-dam connecting Urichar and Noakhali, and constructing modern silos to preserve food grains. Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen and World Bank Country Director Ellen Goldstein, among others, were present at the meeting.

Praising the role of Bangladesh government in fighting climate change challenges, Ellen said the World Bank is happy to help the country in managing the fund.

Earlier, the government signed agreements of \$170 million climate funds with seven development partners.



Aparajeyo Bangladesh, a child rights organisation, brings out a procession from National Museum in the capital on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

New air chief takes over

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Enamul Bari took the command of Bangladesh Air Force through an induction ceremony yesterday afternoon.

Principal Staff Officers of Air Headquarters attended the ceremony held at Air Force Headquarters, says an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release.

Enamul Bari succeeds the outgoing Air Force chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman.

In the morning, the former Air Chief visited Shikha Anirban at Dhaka Cantonment and placed a wreath to pay homage to the members of Armed Forces martyred in the Liberation War.

HC grants bail to Aminul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted one month anticipatory bail to former BNP posts and telecommunications minister Aminul Haque in connection with a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The ACC filed the case with Ramna Police Station against Aminul and Mizanur Rahman, one of Aminul's US expatriate relatives, on June 7.

An ACC lawyer alleged that the duo siphoned off \$17.08 lakh abroad. The lawyer claimed that the money was taken as bribe for helping Siemens Bangladesh win government contracts between 2001 and 2006. The company had admitted before a US court of bribery and was fined.

The court also granted one month anticipatory bail to Mizanur.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan passed the bail orders following two separate bail petitions filed by the accused.

36 opposition leaders sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent 36 leaders and activists of the BNP-led 18-party alliance to jail on surrender in connection with two separate cases filed on charge of torching vehicles in the capital's Uttara area during hartal hours on April 21 and 22.

The opposition men including former Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) President Azizul Bari Helal and Uttara thana Unit BNP President Kudrat-e-Elahi Liton surrendered before the court and sought bail in the cases.

Moving the bail petitions, their lawyers told the court that their clients on May 15 surrendered before the High Court (HC) and sought anticipatory bail in the cases.

Opposing the bail petitions, the prosecution said that the HC granted them bail till yesterday.

After hearing from both sides, First Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate

Mohammad Shahidul Islam rejected their bail petitions and ordered to send them to jail.

CASE AGAINST KHOKON

Another Dhaka court yesterday rejected a ten-day remand prayer sought by Khilgaon police to quiz BNP leader Khairul Kabir khokon in connection with bus driver Badaruddin Beg killing case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Rezaul Karim passed the order after Sub-Inspector Muksedur Rahman of khilgaon police, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, placed before it a ten-day remand prayer.

The court also ordered to send Khokon to jail. On June 4, Khokon was shown arrested in the case for his alleged involvement in the killing.

Begh, 48, was burnt to death while sleeping in his bus that was set fire at Khidma Hospital area on April 21.

World Day Against Child Labour observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eliminating child labour in Bangladesh remains a challenge for the fact that families in dire poverty mostly rely on their children for livelihood, said speakers at a programme marking the World Day Against Child Labour yesterday.

Although impositions from the government to disengage children from hazardous jobs have been initiated, the number of working children is increasing, they said.

They made the comments at the inaugural ceremony of Child Labour Documentary Film Festival organised by Development Communication Network (DCN) at Public Library Auditorium in the capital's Shabbag yesterday.

Hundreds of slum children from across the city attended the day-long

show of 15 video documentaries on labour issues that was amassed by DCN.

"Continuation of child labour is a social and political failure that does not go in line with the political consciousness conceived during the liberation war that promised everyone their respective rights," Ain O Salish Kendro Executive Director Sultana Kamal said while addressing the programme as chief guest.

"We failed to provide a sound society where every child could study," she added.

Eminent filmmaker Catherine Masud also addressed the programme as a special guest, sharing her experience of working on a documentary on child labour.

Different cultural and rights bodies, including Population Services and Training Centres and National

Coordination Committee for Workers' Education, also held discussions and cultural programmes in the capital yesterday in observance of World Day Against Child Labour.

Aparajeyo-Bangladesh, an NGO working with disadvantaged children, brought out a colourful procession on the occasion from the city's National Museum to Central Shaheed Minar, followed by a discussion and cultural programme yesterday.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Human Rights Foundation, Chittagong organised a meeting at Ainjibi Bhaban in Chittagong city yesterday marking the day.

Speakers at the meeting said children are employed at different risky jobs because they can be exploited by paying low wages, forced to work more and tolerate the repression silently

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Syed Sajjad Ali, father of Surgery Department chairman at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof Dr Syed Sirajul Karim, died of old age complications on Monday night. He was 88.

He left behind his three sons and seven daughters, a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Sajjad's body was taken to his Syed Mohalla village home in Begerhat for burial.

Sarfun Nessa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sarfun Nessa, mother of Manzur Milkey, national cricket umpire, renowned sports journalist and former general secretary of Bangladesh Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association, passed away at her Uttara residence in the capital on Monday.

Members of the association condoled her death.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 16th death anniversary of Shamsul Alam (Nana Bhai), a veteran politician and close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On the occasion, recitation from Quran and a doa mahfil will be held at his grave, said a press release.

Relatives and friends are requested to pray for the salivation of the departed soul.

LA Chowdhury

METRO DESK

Today is the 36th death anniversary of LA Chowdhury, a social worker and politician.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and quarakhwani will be held at his grave in Chittagong after Maghrib prayers and Nayapaltan Jame Mosque in the capital after Esha prayers, says a press release.

LA Chowdhury was a close associate of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq and the then Jukto Front general secretary.



State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Choudhury greets Wasfia Nazreen, second Bangladeshi woman to summit Everest, at the latter's residence in Banani DOHS in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

PM to greet Everest conquerors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will accord a reception to the four Bangladeshi Mount Everest conquerors on June 20.

Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and Jatiya Mohila Sangstha will jointly host the reception at noon at the PMO.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Choudhury disclosed the information to reporters while visiting the residence of Wasfia Nazreen to greet her on her achievement.

Wasfia is the second Bangladeshi woman to conquer Everest on May 26 after Nishat Majumder, who became the first Bangladeshi woman to achieve the feat on May 19. Musa Ibrahim is the first Bangladeshi to


conquer the world's highest mountain on May 23, 2010, while MA Mohit has been the first Bangladeshi who reached the top of Everest twice.

"Along with the people, the prime minister is delighted with their conquests especially of the two women," Sharmin Choudhury said.

Despite having difficulties, women progressed in different sectors. The achievement of Nishat and Wasfia will act as a milestone for the progress of women community, she said.

While talking to the state minister, Wasfia sought blessings of all so that she can earn reputation for the country through other such achievements in future.

Feni Samity in Dhaka will also accord a reception to Wasfia tomorrow at the capital's Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh.





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