

PADMA BRIDGE

# WB failure if loan not sanctioned

Says Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It would completely be the World Bank's failure if it does not provide the loan for the construction of the Padma bridge, said Awami League Presidium Member Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir at a discussion yesterday.

"The bridge will be constructed within three or five years even if the World Bank does not sanction the loan," he said, adding that massive projects do face some kind of impediment at one point.

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote organised the discussion in the capital's Central Public Library auditorium marking National Mourning Day.

Speaking as the chief guest, Mohiuddin said if BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia had even the minimal knowledge on the constitution, she would not have demanded restoration of the caretaker government system.

Recalling the contributions of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, he said, "Bangabandhu presented the country's best constitution."

Addressing the discussion as the key speaker, State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam said there was no possibility, under any circumstances, of holding national polls under the caretaker government system.

Pointing at Khaleda Zia, he said, "An evil force (the caretaker government system) will not put you in power. Therefore, stop daydreaming."

Claiming that the war crimes trial was not being held to keep the accused away from politics, the state minister said the accused were being tried for what they did during the Liberation War in 1971.



The ambience surrounding the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial in the capital's Rayerbazar seems to be degrading with time. Squatters have set up makeshift structures all around, an adjacent canal has been narrowed down by encroachers and criminal activities spiral with almost non-existent security measures in the area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Experts concerned over rise in natural disasters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers yesterday expressed concern over the increase in frequency of natural disasters, which are the negative impacts of climate change, in the country and urged the government to allocate more climate fund for research. Frequency of the different forms of natural disasters have increased due to the negative impacts of climate change, which can be exemplified by the drop in the annual rainfall, they stated at a seminar.

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) organised the seminar, "Ice melting in Antarctica and climate change impacts on the Earth and Bangladesh", in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Addressing as the chief guest, Environment and Forests Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud said climate change has caused the annual rainfall to drop in the country but the frequency of torrential rain to increase.

Bangladesh is geographically in a very vul-

nerable position and its estimated 30 million inhabitants will be directly affected due to sea level rise, he added.

"Around 17 percent land of the Sundarbans will go under the sea if the sea level rises by only one metre," the ministers said.

Former University Grants Commission chairman Prof Nazrul Islam said developed industrial countries continue to go on polluting, ignoring the climate change impacts, while developing countries like Bangladesh are becoming victims of natural disasters.

The country's environment was under threat due to the anti-environment activities of some people of the country, he said.

He suggested the government to allocate more fund for the universities to conduct research on the impacts and prevention of climate change.

Bapa President ASM Shahjahan chaired the seminar. Water expert Prof Feroze Ahmed and Bapa Secretary Dr Mohammad Abdul Matin also spoke on the occasion.

# Four die from electrocution

METRO DESK

Four people including two boys died from electrocution in Thakurgaon, Habiganj and Bogra on Thursday and yesterday.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent reports, Madhu, 55, was electrocuted as he came in contact with a live electric wire when he was repairing a tin-shed roof in his house at Dehan village Thakurgaon sadar upazila around 7:00am yesterday.

Our Sylhet correspondent reports, 10-year-old boy Main Uddin died from electrocution as an electric wire fell on him at Bishaura village in Habiganj sadar upazila around 9:00am yesterday.

A Bogra correspondent reports, two people including a school teacher and a boy died from electrocution in Sherpur and Bogra sadar upazila on Thursday.

In an incident, Md Sofiqul Islam, 40, a teacher at Dupcacia Pilot High School, was electrocuted as he came in contact with a live electric wire in Baropur area in Sherpur around 10:00pm.

In another incident, Manik came in contact of a live electric wire at a local shop in Ranabirbala area.

# Drilling of 17th Titas gas well starts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFCL) yesterday started drilling the 17th well of Titas gas field in Brahmanbaria.

Md Abdul Manna, deputy commissioner of Brahmanbaria, and Md Shafiur Rahman, managing director of BGFCL, inaugurated the drilling work yesterday in south-east zone of the field on the west bank of the Titas river.

According to BGFCL office sources, the drilling work of the 17th Titas well is expected to be completed around this year's November or December.

The well is likely to supply 30 to 35 million cubic feet of natural gas to the national grid. BGFCL will bear the cost of drilling the well.

BGFCL appointed Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Company Limited (BAPEX), a state-owned exploration and production company, to drill the well.

There are six gas fields --- Titas, Habiganj, Bakharabad, Narsingdi, Meghna and Kamta -- under BGFCL.

BGFCL is set to drill seven more gas wells by 2013. The company alone is now supplying 37 percent of total gas to the national grid daily.

# Three drown

METRO DESK

Three people, including a college student, drowned in ponds and river in separate incidents in Chittagong, Bogra and Dinajpur on Thursday and yesterday.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, Ankan Dey, 5, son of Tapan Dey, of Baroiapara village in Sitakunda upazila, drowned in the pond near his home while he was playing beside it yesterday morning.

In Bogra, Roktim Ahmed, 3, son of Abdus Sattar of Belkuchi village in Dhunat upazila, drowned in the pond adjacent to his home while he was playing on Thursday evening.

In Dinajpur, Forhad Islam Plaban 20, son of Md Saiful Islam of Kalitola in Dinajpur municipality, and a second year Business Studies student of Dinajpur Adarsha College, drowned in Punorbhaba River yesterday noon.

Family members said Plaban drowned in the river while he, along with his younger brother and friends, was having a bath. His body could not be recovered till yesterday evening.

# Man, son killed over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A father and his son were killed over a land dispute in Mithapukur upazila on Thursday afternoon.

The dead are Nurul Islam, 60, and his son Nazmul Hossain, 32, of Buzruk village.

Hearing the news of the killing, Nazmul's maternal grandfather Baki Mian, 80, died of cardiac arrest.

Police said there was a longstanding dispute between Nurul Islam and one late Wares Ali over a piece of land.

Due to the dispute, Wares Ali's sons lodged a case against Nurul and his son of abducting and killing their father.

Both Nurul and Nazmul had been sent to jail in this connection. However, 15 days back they were granted bail after serving three months in jail.

Wares's sons and their cohorts attacked the two with sharp weapons on Thursday while they were returning home after retting jute.

Nazmul died instantly while Nurul died on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Rangpur SP Saleh Mohammad Tanvir said they are trying to arrest the criminals who went into hiding.

Arman Hossain, officer-in-charge of Mithapukur Police Station, said a large number of police have been deployed in the area.



Winners of "Citi Agamir Alo Protijogita" hold their awards high at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the capital yesterday. A total of 1,053 students contested in the event where they were given 12 children's literature books to read and awarded on the basis of the number of books they read.

PHOTO: STAR



Buses like this one of Ashian Paribahan ply the Dhaka-Narayanganj route with no approval of their fitness. The photo was taken from Motijheel in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMAN

# Bishwa Sahitya Kendra awards 583 for reading books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students need to read creative literary books along with text and academic books for realisation of life, said founder chairman of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra and noted litterateur Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed yesterday.

He said this at a prize giving ceremony of the third "Citi Agamir Alo Protijogita" jointly organised by Bishwa Sahitya Kendra and Citi Foundation, a sister concern of Citibank, at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the capital.

A total of 583 students, out of 1,053 participants, from 10 colleges of Dhaka were awarded on the basis of the number of books, out of 12 they had been provided, they had read.

Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury and Citibank Bangladesh Managing Director Rashed Maksud, among others, were also present at the function.

COMING OUT TOMORROW

## LINKING YOUNG MINDS

This week's Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, has some interesting reads for you. The spotlight this week is on how greeting cards used to hold a very special place in the heart of every occasion and how it is now slowly becoming obsolete. The Post Campus this week is on how legend Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan popularised Sufi music all around the world. The Star Chat this week is on entrepreneur Nafees Reza (Vicky) where he shares his dreams, inspirations and future plans. Don't forget to grab your copy of Star Campus as it hits the country tomorrow, Sunday. And, as always, have a great read!

GREETINGS WITH WARMTH