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ADB LOAN FOR MEMBER COUNTRIES IN 2016

Disbursement rate highest in Bangladesh

REAZ AHMAD from Yokohama, Japan

Bangladesh topped the list of all the developing member countries of the Asian Development Bank in terms of loan disbursement ratio last year, followed by China, Pakistan, India and Vietnam.

With a total disbursed amount of \$823 million, the disbursement ratio -- 23.4 per cent -- for Bangladesh was the highest among the top five countries, an ADB report said.

The report, titled "2016 Development Effectiveness Review", was released yesterday in Yokohama, Japan at the 50th Annual Meeting of the Bank's Board of Governors.

After the Saarc finance ministers' meeting held on the sidelines of the meeting, Bangladesh Finance Minister AMA Muhith expressed satisfaction at better disbursement of ADB loans in Bangladesh.



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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joins a videoconference with the top leaders of six South Asian countries from the Gono Bhaban on the occasion of South Asian Satellite launch yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

CODE FOR JUDGES

Govt to seek more time for notification

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government may seek more time from the Supreme Court for issuing a gazette notification on the rules determining the discipline and code of conduct of lower court judges, although the apex court on several previous occasions expressed dissatisfaction at the government's failure to do so.

The judiciary was officially separated from the executive in November 2007 but the conduct rules for lower court judges are yet to be finalised.

The government drafted the conduct rules and sent those to the SC for its opinion. The court revised the draft in light of the 1999 verdict in the separation of judiciary case.

The Appellate Division of the SC is set to hold a hearing on the issue on Monday.

Talking to The Daily Star, Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said, "We will of course issue the gazette notification on the

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FLOOD-HIT HAOR AREAS IN SUNAMGANJ

Farmers turning into labourers

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Sunamganj

Bashar Mia and his father used to be busy around this time every year harvesting Boro on their five acres of land near Nishchintapur village in Sunamganj's Tahirpur upazila.

But things have changed this year after their crops went under water due to early flood. The 21-year-old youth now spends most of his time at the Kalibari point in Sunamganj town waiting to get hired as a labourer.

Some days he gets work, some days he doesn't.

"There is no food at home. My father became sick after Boro on our land were damaged by the flood. Besides, we have to repay loans we took from local money lenders. Our condition is miserable," he said.

Bashar is one of numerous farmers of haor areas thronging the Kalibari point for work every day. But very few of them get work.

Many were willing to work for measly sums out of desperation.

"I came here more than a week ago, but managed to find work on only two days. There are more people looking for work than there is work," Bashar said.

Though he was paid less than the usual, he had nothing to do as he would have to repay the loan his father took for cultivating Boro.

Visiting the Kalibari point five days ago, The Daily Star correspondent found around 150 people, including women, looking for work. They start gathering there around 7:00am and wait until 11:00am.

Joynal Mia, 31, of Shekargaon village in Sadar said he never worked as a labourer before. Yet he went there because his crops were washed away and he had no money.

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They are all farmers. Their crops are now under water as early floods have hit Sunamganj haor areas. Besides suffering the huge crop loss, they have also got caught up in debt. With no options left other than to become labourers, they wait for people to hire them for work at Kalibari point in the district town every morning.

RAMPAL POWER PLANT

Norwegian wealth fund blacklists India's BHE

AFP, Oslo

Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the world's largest, has taken Indian industrial giant Bharat Heavy Electricals out of its investment portfolio due to environmental concerns, the Norwegian central bank said yesterday.

Bharat Heavy Electricals has been targeted because it is building a coal-fired power plant in the Sundarbans, one of the world's largest mangrove forests straddling Bangladesh and the Indian state of West Bengal.

The fund -- worth an estimated \$934 billion -- has also placed Chinese oil giant PetroChina and Italian aerospace group Leonardo under observation over corruption allegations, said the Bank of

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PRAYER TIMING

MAY 6

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-15 12-45 4-45 6-31 8-00
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-00 6-35 8-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

'Plot to kill Kim Jong-un'

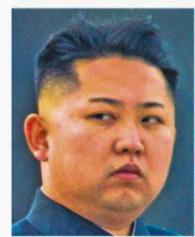
North Korea accuses CIA, South Korea as tension runs high

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korea yesterday accused the US Central Intelligence Agency and South Korea's intelligence service of a plot to attack its "supreme leadership" with a bio-chemical weapon and said such a "pipe-dream" could never succeed.

Tension on the Korean peninsula has been high for weeks, driven by concern that North Korea might conduct its sixth nuclear test or test-launch another ballistic missile in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions.

Reclusive North Korea warned this week that US hostility had brought the region to the brink of nuclear war.



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First Chinese made passenger jet takes off



AFP, Shanghai

The first large made-in-China passenger plane successfully completed its maiden test flight yesterday, marking a key milestone on the country's ambitious journey to compete with the world's leading aircraft makers.

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First Death Anniversary

In eternity You remain

WASIM SAJJAD

Today is 6th May. This day last year our beloved **Wasim Sajjad** (45) left us, tearing off all earthly bondings of love and affection while undergoing treatment at St. Lukes Hospital in Houston, Texas.

Wasim may not be physically with us. But he will remain omnipresent at the core of our heart, at each breath in, each breath out, verily present in our feelings. May Allah grant his departed soul rest at peace in heaven. Amin. All his relatives and friends are requested to keep him in their prayer.

Sultana Shaheda Islam (Mother), Md. Saiful Islam (Father), Kaniz Fatema (Wife), Tahmina Rehman (Sister), Omar Hamid Chowdhury (Brother-in-law) and dearest children.

We Mourn



Late Haj Begum Kaniz Fatema

We are deeply shocked and grieved at the sudden demise of **Alhaj Begum Kaniz Fatema**, mother of Ex-MP & Freedom Fighter **Dr. H. B. M. Iqbal**, Honorable Chairman, The Premier Bank Limited, wife of **Late Alhaj A.K.M. Zillur Rahman**, at National University Hospital, Singapore on last Friday 2:00 AM, May 5, 2017 (Innailiha wa Innailiha Rajeun). She was 84. She left behind 5 sons, 4 daughter, Son-in-law, Daughter-in-law, Grand sons & daughters & lots of well-wishers.

Her 1st namaj-e-janaja held on today Saturday May 6, 2017 after zuhr prayer at Gulshan Azad Masjid & 2nd namaj-e-janaja after asr prayer at Banani Masjid (near Iqbal Center).

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all employees of The Premier Bank Limited, we express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pray to the Almighty Allah to grant eternal peace to the departed soul.

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হাওড় অঞ্চলে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত কৃষকদের ঋণ আদায় কার্যক্রম স্থগিত এবং ত্রাসকৃত সুদে ঋণ প্রদান কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ

জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর পক্ষ থেকে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পরবর্তী সিদ্ধান্ত না হওয়া পর্যন্ত হাওড় অঞ্চলে আকস্মিক বন্যায় ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত কৃষকদের বর্তমান ঋণ আদায় কার্যক্রম স্থগিত থাকবে এবং ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত কৃষক/ব্যক্তিদের ত্রাসকৃত ৪.৫% সুদে কৃষি ও পল্লী ঋণ সুবিধা প্রদান করা হবে। এছাড়া ৪% রেয়াতি সুদে ডাল, তৈলবীজ, মসলা জাতীয় ফসল ও ভুট্টা চাষে ঋণ বিতরণ অব্যাহত থাকবে।

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