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LOAN FOR LANKA Bangladesh yet to decide on \$250m

UNB, Colombo

Bangladesh is looking into cash strapped Sri Lanka's request for another loan of \$250 million but no decision has been made yet in this regard, said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

"They have made another approach and we will look into it. It will be another loan but it's not decided yet," he said here yesterday while responding to a question on the island nation's deepening financial crisis on the sidelines of the 18th BIMSTEC ministerial meeting.

Regarding the global uncertainty, the minister said it is not clear how things will work out (after the current situation in Ukraine).

Momen said Bangladesh mostly depends on imported energy. "So, we're watching it and seeing how we can help each other."

He said Bangladesh,

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What looks like a polluted canal is actually a street in the capital's Shyampur area. It has long been under dark water discharged into clogged drains by fabric dyers. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

'DHAKA UNLIVABLE' Embarrassing, painful: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is painful and embarrassing that Dhaka is one of the most unlivable cities and the most polluted one in the world, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

Bangladesh is one of the 11 countries with fast progressing economies, but buses in Dhaka city are rundown, he said.

Terming Dhaka an unplanned city, the minister said a subway network should be built for it. "We have been able to build the Padma Bridge and we are able to construct the subway."

They were speaking at a seminar at a hotel organised to reveal the draft final report of the feasibility study and preliminary design for construction of the subway.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh said the project should be "cost effective."

The draft report recommended a 258-km subway network to ease congestion. There will be 11 subway routes in the city and its outskirts. The routes will be constructed in three phases.

It would require \$41,306 million for constructing four routes of around 105km in the first phase.

Around \$34,477 million would be required for building four other routes in the second phase (2030-2040) and around \$27,025 million for another three routes and expansion of two of the four routes constructed in the first phase by 2050, reads the document.

Consultants, who carried out the feasibility study on behalf of Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA), opined that Dhaka subway is socio-economically feasible and financially sustainable with partial public support. The



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Freedom of expression still curtailed in Bangladesh Says Amnesty

STAR REPORT

Freedom of expression continued to be heavily curtailed by draconian laws in Bangladesh in 2021, Amnesty International said.

The rights organisation mentioned this in its 2021/22 report titled "The state of the world's human rights," released yesterday.

The report, based on the rights situation in 154 countries, also presents Amnesty's documented concerns and recommendations for governments and others, according to its website.

It said, "The authorities carried out serious human rights violations including enforced disappearances, unlawful detention, torture and extrajudicial executions."

It added that peaceful protests by opposition political parties and students were prevented and suppressed.

Tk 179,198cr lost to natural calamities

Finds a BBS survey from 2015-2020

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Natural disasters like floods, drought, cyclones and river erosion have caused almost Tk 30,000 crore in damages a year between 2015 and 2020, found a first-of-its-kind government survey.

"We were once known as the land of natural disasters but we have overcome that and forged ahead," said Planning Minister MA Mannan at the launch of the survey report styled 'Bangladesh Environment Statistics 2020'.

The survey, which was conducted from 2015 to 2020 on five crore people in disaster-prone areas of 64 districts by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, found direct economic losses amounting to Tk 179,198 crore.

This is equivalent to 1.32 percent of national GDP, as a result of natural disasters.

The country was able to overcome the damages by dint of people's hard work, he said, adding that he once advised the disaster-prone US state of New Orleans to consult with Bangladesh to learn how to handle natural calamities like flood and hurricanes better.

The disasters mostly degrade the land and cause damage to crops, infrastructure, livestock, fisheries, poultry and homestead forestry.

Floods caused the most damage (56 percent), followed by river or coastal erosion (14.99 percent) and cyclones. Water-logging, drought, hailstorm, salinity, landslide, thunderstorm, tornado and storms also led to economic losses.

The disasters kept people idle for 21 days on average in a year, found the study.

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Joti reflects on maiden WC
Tigresses captain demands more from her troops

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Regime change
The strategy the US no longer wants

P7

Gujarat gets India's first 'steel road'



NDTV ONLINE

Nineteen million tonnes of steel waste produced by different plants around India each year that usually go to landfills may soon be find a use - to make roads that not only utilise an unused resource but also be more durable.

Under the first such project as part of a research, a road made with steel waste has come up in the city of Surat in Gujarat at the Hazira Industrial Area.

It is sponsored by the Council of Scientific and

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ROHINGYA CRISIS

Dhaka, UN seek to raise \$881m
Assistance mainly for refugees and host communities

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and UN agencies yesterday presented their Joint Response Plan 2022, seeking to raise \$881 million in humanitarian assistance for the Rohingyas and the Bangladeshi host communities.

This is the first time the JRP sought \$100 million for the Rohingyas in Bhasan Char, where the government has set up a housing facility at the cost of \$360 million for one lakh Rohingyas. So far, about 26,000 refugees have been relocated there.

The JRP 2022, virtually launched in Geneva, will support approximately 1.4 million people - 918,000 Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char, and 540,000 Bangladeshi in neighbouring communities.

Presented by UNHCR Director of External Relations Dominique Hyde, the JRP 2022 wants to make sure that the Rohingya situation does not become a forgotten crisis.

"It is therefore vital to ensure continued funding and support to meet the needs of the refugees and surrounding host communities."

The JRP highlights the need for enhanced efforts towards disaster risk management and climate change mitigation, including through

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TK 2,500 CRORE SCAM Ex-BB high-ups spill the beans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The names of top officials of the central bank, including former and current deputy governors and executive directors, have come up in the embezzlement of Tk 2,500 crore from International Leasing and Financial Services Ltd (ILFLS).

"Former deputy governor SK Sur Chowdhury and executive director Shah Alam have revealed their names before the investigation officer," said a top official of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on the condition of anonymity.

Chowdhury and Alam were quizzed yesterday for about five hours at the ACC's headquarters in Segunbagicha by its Deputy Director Gulshan Anowar Prodhan.

Fugitive and former managing director of NRB Global Bank Proshanto Kumar Halder, also known as PK Halder, who is made the prime accused in 34 cases filed over embezzlement of money from ILFLS and another non-bank financial institution FAS Finance, is held as the mastermind behind the misappropriation of the money.

Earlier, in a confessional statement in connection with a case, former ILFLS MD Rashedul Haque said Halder had a close relationship with Chowdhury.

Haque also said that he gave Tk 2 lakh per month to Shah Alam, who was the general manager of the BB's department of financial

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Bismillah Rahman Rahim

1st Death Anniversary
Marhum S.S. Nizamuddin Ahmed



First Anniversary of death of Eminent banker and social worker **Marhum Shahzada Syed Nizamuddin Ahmed Shaheb** will be observed on 30th March 2022, Wednesday. To mark the day Milad Doa Mahfil and Mezban will be arranged at Gausia Rahmania Nizamia Darbar Sharif (Maizbandar Sharif) on 30th March, Wednesday, after Magrib prayers.

All his friends, relatives and well wishers are requested to attend the function and pray to Allah Subhanu Tala for the salvation of the departed soul.

Rashida Begum and her affectionate daughters and sons in law

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অতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য উল্লেখ করা যাচ্ছে যে, একটি প্রতিরোধ মোবাইল ফোনে মেসেজ প্রেরণের মাধ্যমে শিক্ষার্থীদের উন্নয়ন প্রদানের মিথ্যা তথ্য দিয়ে শিক্ষা বোর্ডের নাম ব্যবহার করে শিক্ষার্থীদের নিকট থেকে অর্থ হাতিয়ে নেয়ার চেষ্টা করছে। প্রধানমন্ত্রীর শিক্ষা সহায়তা ট্রাস্ট থেকে সমন্বিত উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচির আওতায় বছরের নির্ধারিত সময়ে অনলাইনে শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে আবেদন গ্রহণ করে উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচির পরিচালনা করা হয়। এক্ষেত্রে শিক্ষার্থী বা অভিভাবকের সাথে সরাসরি যোগাযোগের কোন অবকাশ নেই। শিক্ষার্থী, অভিভাবক ও শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানকে এ বিষয়ে সর্বোচ্চ সতর্কতা অবলম্বন এবং একই সাথে প্রতিরোধক চিহ্নিত করা গেলে তাদের বিকালে আইনানুগ ব্যবহা গ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

জিডি-৬০৩