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ADB-funded projects face fresh hurdles

Change in govt, political turmoil key reasons; review meeting starts today

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Many ongoing development projects, funded by the Asian Development Bank, is facing additional implementation challenges due to the current political climate and changes in the government, a document says.

The ADB has also initiated a "rapid market assessment" to "better understand the impact of the prevailing socio-economic conditions", it said.

Against this backdrop, a three-day Tripartite Portfolio Review Meeting (TPRM) for the ADB funded projects starts in Dhaka today.

The critical implementation issues, including additional challenges that projects have faced during the recent unrest and changes of the government, are on the agenda of the meeting.

The meeting was supposed to be held in July 2024 but got delayed due to the uprising, which led to the changes in the government.

Representatives of implementing agencies of all the projects will join the meeting virtually.

The third and final day of the meeting will be co-chaired by the secretary of the Economic Relations Division and the country director of the ADB's Bangladesh Resident Mission.

Currently, 53 investment projects in six sectors are being implemented with ADB's fund of \$12.262 billion.

Of the projects, five are in the agriculture, food, nature, and rural development sector; 10 in the human and social development sector; nine in the energy sector; 12 in the transport sector; 11 in the water and urban development sector; and six in the finance, public sector

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An artisan busy putting the finishing touches to idols of goddess Durga at Sri Sri Jagannath Mandir in Barishal city on Saturday. Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindus, begins on Wednesday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

ATTACK ON PROTESTERS Three dead AL leaders among the accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Cumilla

Three Awami League leaders, who died between September 2022 and June this year, were accused in a case filed over the attack on protesters during the student-led mass movement in Cumilla Sadar South upazila on August 4.

The deceased leaders are Hazi Abdul Momin, Kamal Uddin Mazumder, and Wahidur Rahman Farid. They were Cumilla Sadar South upazila unit AL's forest and environment secretary, agricultural secretary, and member, respectively.

The case, filed on October 2, also names AHM Mustafa Kamal's younger brother and former upazila chairman Golam Sarwar and former upazila chairman Abdul Hai Bablu as prime suspects.

In total, 96 leaders and

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Army saved the country from instability

Says Yunus, inaugurates 'Army Headquarters Selection Board-2024'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the Bangladesh Army has once again been recognised as a symbol of trust by the people of the country.

"Bangladesh Army stood by the people of the country at the time of crisis and saved the country from an unstable situation by expediting the process of forming an interim government," he said while inaugurating the "Army Headquarters Selection Board-2024" at the Army Headquarters as the chief guest.

The chief adviser directed the members of the Selection Board to emphasise professional competence, leadership qualities and standards of discipline, honesty, trustworthiness, and loyalty, and above all, the suitability of the officers for promotion, said a press release issued by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

He said officers with honesty, integrity, and leadership qualities deserve promotions and directed the authorities to select those officers for promotion who have succeeded in providing competent leadership in various activities of military

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'Will never quit, never bend'

Says Trump during campaigns at the site of assassination attempt



AFP, Butler

Donald Trump defiantly returned Saturday to the site of a campaign rally where an assassin's bullet almost killed him in July, questioning whether his opponents were responsible and declaring he would "never quit."

"Exactly 12 weeks ago this evening, on this very ground, a cold-blooded assassin aimed to silence me," the Republican candidate told tens of thousands of supporters after taking the stage behind bulletproof glass.

Calling the gunman a "vicious monster," Trump vowed he would "never quit... never bend... never break" to cheers of "fight, fight, fight" from the crowd.

Trump's much-hyped return to Butler, Pennsylvania, came exactly one month before the November 5 presidential election, the outcome of which President Joe Biden suggested on Friday might not be peaceful.

Trump lashed out at his political opponents, calling them the "enemy within" who had pushed to indict him and "who knows, maybe even tried to kill me."

"I wasn't supposed to make it," he said ominously.

Security was noticeably tighter than Trump's July rally, with

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POLICE REFORM Changing 150-yr-old law will be top priority

Says commission chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Police Reform Commission will primarily focus on the amendment to the police laws and regulations to make the force time-befitting and turn it into pro-people and service-oriented.

The commission's Chairman Safar Raj Hossain disclosed this after meeting the commission members at the Secretariat yesterday.

He added that the force has been operating under a 150-year-old police law, the Police Act of 1861, and the Police Regulations of Bengal, 1943.

"These laws are outdated. No major changes have been made to them," he said while speaking to reporters after the meeting.

The commission plans to engage individuals, including police officers, experts, lawyers, and journalists... who have been working on laws to bring necessary changes, said Safar Raj.

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BANGLADESHIS IN LEBANON Terrified and displaced

Many of around 3,000 want to come home

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladeshis in Lebanon are passing their days in sheer uncertainty amid a military campaign by Israel.

An estimated 3,000 people from Bangladesh have fled their places of work in the southern part of the Middle Eastern country.

Miraz Mahmud, 26, fled the Navatia region of southern Lebanon with some 30 other Bangladeshis and joined around 220 others at a shelter in the relatively calm Saida region after Israel launched the attack two weeks ago.

"Though there is no attack in the area where I stay now, there is no guarantee that this area will not come under attack," Miraz told The Daily Star from the shelter yesterday evening. The young man from Noakhali migrated to Lebanon in 2017 and has not visited Bangladesh since then.

The local Bangladeshi community rented the facility where Miraz and others have taken shelter. The evacuees there include 110 women and seven children.

Rabool Sheikh is one of the Bangladeshis who took the initiative to raise funds from his friends in Lebanon through a Facebook group. The Bangladesh embassy later extended support with rice, oil, and pulses. A Lebanese business community has also helped the evacuees.

"The funds and other kinds of support we have

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SECURITY CONCERN Buddhists won't observe major religious event in CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rangamati

The association of Buddhist monks of Chattogram Hill Tracts yesterday announced that it will not observe Kathin ChibarDaan, a major religious event, this year because of safety concerns and the recent racial violence in the region.

The monks made the announcement at a press conference at Rangamati's Maitri Bouddha Bihar, which was ransacked and looted on September 20.

Several people were killed, over 100 shops were set on fire during communal violence on September 18, 19, 20 and October 1, said Sraddhalankar Mahathera, president of the Parbatya Chattogram Bhikkhu Sangha.

Three indigenous people were shot dead in Khagrachhari while the Regional Council office was burnt down in Rangamati

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India steamroll Tigers in first T20I

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new-look India were too much to handle for Bangladesh as the hosts produced a dominating all-round display to register a resounding seven-wicket victory in the first of the three T20Is yesterday in Gwalior, a city in which international cricket returned after 14 years.

After bundling out Bangladesh for 127 in 19.5 overs, India raced to the paltry target in just 11.5 overs.

Led by Suryakumar Yadav, India, who saw former skipper Rohit Sharma, star batter Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja retire from the format after winning the T20 World Cup earlier this year, handed debuts to all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy and pace sensation Mayank Yadav yesterday.

The hosts were also without a bunch of their

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Vehicles navigate a crater-like pothole-ridden road in Kamalapur area in the capital yesterday. The poor condition of the street worsened following the recent rains. Breakdowns have become common on this patch of the road that often leads to congestion.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

More than one asteroid killed off dinosaurs: study

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A six-mile-long asteroid, which struck Earth 66 million years ago, wiped out the dinosaurs and more than half of all life on Earth. The impact left a 124-mile-wide crater underneath the Gulf of Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula.

And, until now, it had been assumed that the asteroid acted alone. This week, scientists at Scotland's Heriot Watt University have published new three-dimensional images of a crater made by a second asteroid that hit Earth at around the same time off the coast of West Africa.

The 5-mile-wide Nadir Crater was found nearly a thousand feet under the floor of the Atlantic Ocean. Dr Uisdean Nicholson was part of the group that first found it a little over five years ago, but needed seismic data from the images to confirm what had made it.

"It reveals this crater in three dimensions for the first time - the first time we've ever been able to see inside an impact crater," he told The Independent on Friday. The study was published Thursday in the journal Nature Communications Earth & Environment.

