

BUDGET SUPPORT FROM WB, ADB \$1.1b loan likely by December

Bangladesh to utilise the fund to speed up reforms, stabilise reserves

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD ABBAS

The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are preparing to submit proposals to their boards for \$1.1 billion in budget support for Bangladesh, finance ministry officials have said.

Discussions about the loans to expedite reforms and ease pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves have already been completed, according to the officials.

Through these proposals, Bangladesh expects \$500 million from the World Bank and \$600 million from the ADB.

The World Bank's loan proposals are likely to be presented to its board in the first and second halves of December.

The ADB's loan may come under the Strengthening Economic Management and Governance Programme.

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Unplanned and unregulated development of residential and factory buildings in the low-lying area of Fatulla, Narayanganj, has caused waterlogging. Many of the buildings can only be accessed via bamboo bridges. The area, which lacks proper drainage, remains flooded almost throughout the year, and the stagnant water gets polluted. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Cybergangs breaking into NBR server at will

In at least 114 cases, they bypassed 'highly sophisticated' security layers to complete customs procedures

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

On May 20, 2024, Chattogram Custom House Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Zakaria was in Kolkata, India, where he had gone for treatment a week earlier.

At 11:33pm that day, someone accessed the NBR server - Automated System for Custom Data (ASYCUDA) - using his ID

and password. Just about half an hour later, the intruder logged in again, and completed the customs procedures for the release of a container of foreign cigarettes worth Tk 6 crore, imported through false declaration, customs investigators have found.

It was a highly sophisticated maneuver.

First, the imposter had to know Zakaria's ID and password

to access the sensitive server. But even if they obtained or stole his security credentials, there were two additional security layers that needed to be bypassed, and the intruder bypassed both.

One of these two security layers involved mandatory generation of an OTP (One-time Password) that is automatically sent by the system to the ID holder's mobile

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Penetrating NBR server seems not so difficult

Security layer for OTP can be bypassed

One kingpin is a known cybercriminal

Customs worried over the server's security

IT experts say the system is compromised

'Tell us whether he is alive or not'

Wife of a victim of enforced disappearance says at event organised by rights group

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wood seller Ismael Hossain went missing after he left his shop on Mirpur Mazar Road in the capital to have lunch on June 19, 2019.

His wife Nasrin Jahan tried to check security camera footage from the area, but found that the cameras were turned off for two hours at the time.

Speaking at an event at a city hotel yesterday, Nasrin said she had learned that her husband's phone was last active near the Rab-4 office in Mirpur.

Nasrin's youngest child was only two years old and the eldest was 12. The family

was left with no regular earnings.

Since it has never been confirmed whether Ismael was dead or alive, Nasrin could not access the savings he put in a bank account in which she was a nominee. She also has not been able to sell Ismael's land because of the same reason.

She said her husband was a member of an associate body of the BNP.

"Give me some information about whether he is alive or not so I can say something in my prayers," Nasrin said at the 8th Congress of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) organised by rights group Odhikar.

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

A man crawling through a small opening in a road divider to get across the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar's Hemayetpur, putting himself and the other road users at risk. Although a footbridge, not in picture, is located just about 60 metres away, many pedestrians still choose to jaywalk. The photo was taken on Thursday.

Robbers stab 82-year-old to death at Dhaka home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi expatriate who lived in the United Kingdom was stabbed to death by robbers at his apartment in the capital's Dhanmondi early yesterday, say police.

AKM Abdur Rashid, 82, a physician, arrived in Dhaka with his wife from the UK in September.

The incident took place

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Star INTERVIEW

Businesses should be allowed to operate in peace

Says Premier Cement MD Mohammed Amirul Haque

JAGARAN CHAKMA

The business community had to toe the government line during the Awami League rule of the past 15 years, Mohammed Amirul Haque, managing director of Premier Cement Mills, told The Daily Star in an interview recently.

"Businessmen could never speak up about their problems with the immediate past government. Rather, those who tried to speak up were suppressed by the agencies, and as a result, businessmen began to follow the political parties. This was the real truth," he said.

Businessmen should be allowed to do business in peace, he said, while questioning the logic behind the requirement for clearance from intelligence agencies to get utility

connections in industrial plants.

If a political party turns businessmen into lawmakers, they will make laws for their own interests and in that case, the country's interests will not be protected, he said.

While the immediate past government took some good initiatives and took up key projects in some cases, that was not always the case.

He cited the case of the Mirsarai Economic Zone and the construction of the Karnaphuli tunnel for easy access to the industrial park to further his point.

"The Mirsarai Economic Zone is definitely a good plan even though investors have to wait at least five more years to get sufficient and uninterrupted gas and water."

However, making a tunnel under the Karnaphuli river for easy access to

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