



ADB, WB to give single set of rules for joint projects

STAR REPORT

In a bid to streamline development finance, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank will provide borrowers with a single set of conditions and requirements for co-financed projects.

The two major lending agencies have signed an agreement — Full Mutual Reliance Framework (FMRF) — to enhance their collaboration in co-financed projects, according to a World Bank press release.

This first-of-its-kind arrangement between multilateral development banks (MDBs) will mean that borrowers will need to follow a single set of policies and procedures—either from the ADB or the WB—covering all aspects of project design, preparation, appraisal, supervision, completion, and evaluation.

The initiative is expected to cut costs, reduce processing time, and align policies to create a more cohesive global development finance system, the World Bank said.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



PHOTO: CA'S PRESS WING

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, Education and Planning Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud, and Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury are all smiles while handing out awards at the International Mother Language Institute in Dhaka yesterday.



AMAR EKUSHEY-21

This year marks the 73rd anniversary of the 1952 Language Movement. Drawing on research based on various published books, this 21-part series tells the story of the historic struggle for our mother tongue.

Hundreds of women march in Barishal

AHMAD ISTIAK

Women played a crucial role by actively participating in the Language Movement despite societal constraints, but the women of Barishal took it to another level.

On February 22 morning in 1952, hundreds of women, led by former member of provincial assembly (MPA) Mrs Hamiduddin, took to the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

US-Ukraine resources deal still on table

Says Kyiv; Russian strikes on Ukraine kill 12

AFP, Kyiv

Kyiv and Washington are engaged in talks over a deal to hand the United States preferential access to Ukraine's mineral deposits, a source in Kyiv told AFP yesterday — despite a dramatic spat between leaders Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Donald Trump.

The US president's top advisers have doubled down on their attacks on the Ukrainian leader in recent days, after Trump branded him a “dictator” and said Ukraine had “started” the war with Russia.

The war of words has stunned Kyiv and European capitals, a sign of just how rapidly Trump is overhauling Washington's long-standing support for Ukraine as he opens talks with Moscow on a settlement to the conflict.

Meanwhile, Russian attacks across Ukrainian oblasts killed at least 12 civilians and injured at least six over the past day, regional authorities reported yesterday.

Russia launched 160 Shahed-type attack drones and decoy drones against Ukraine overnight, the Air Force said. Eighty-seven drones were shot down, while 70 were lost without causing damage, according to the statement.

The United States had been Ukraine's most important financial, military and political backer since Russia invaded in February 2022, in what the West's top powers had condemned as an unprovoked and illegal war of aggression.

Despite the tensions between Zelenskyy and Trump, talks on a possible agreement to give the US preferential access to Ukraine's critical resources and minerals were “ongoing” yesterday, a senior Ukrainian official with knowledge of the matter told AFP.

Kyiv had rejected a first attempt by Trump's team to strike a deal for Ukraine's natural resources, saying the proposal did not include security guarantees for Kyiv — a move that infuriated Trump.

Three bullet-hit bodies recovered in Jhenaidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushita

Police found three bullet-ridden bodies from Ramchandrapur village in Shaikupa upazila of Jhenaidah late last night.

Imran Zakaria, additional superintendent of police in Jhenaidah, said, “One of the deceased is Hanif. He is from Harinakundu in Jhenaidah. The identities of the other two are yet to be confirmed.”

Shakil Ahmed, inspector (investigation) at Shaikupa Police Station, said police received a call and went to the area under Ramchandrapur Union Parishad to recover the bodies around 11:40pm.

Contacted, Jhenaidah Superintendent of Police Manzur Morshed said two motorcycles were found on the road beside the canal.

Local reporters said they received a text message in which the sender claimed that the men were killed by Jasad Gonobahini. The matter could not be verified.

Local Union Parishad member Palash Uddin said none of the victims were locals.

‘S Asia needs more open trade policies’

Economists tell SANEM conference

STAR REPORT

South Asian nations should adopt more open trade policies and shun protectionism to attract foreign direct investment, several economists said at a conference yesterday.

The tariff structures in South Asia are still high, which is a factor behind low trade among countries in the region, they said at the launch of the 8th SANEM Annual Economists' Conference.

Selim Raihan, a Dhaka University economics professor and executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), moderated the session — a virtual talk on “Implications of Geoeconomic Fragmentation for South Asia”.

The economists said internal trade in other regions is higher than in South Asia since the others completed much-needed reforms earlier, despite geopolitical tensions.

For instance, they said, a volume of trade takes place between China and Taiwan, although they have geopolitical tensions. However, trade between India and Pakistan is still low despite their geopolitical proximity. Here, geoeconomics cannot win geopolitics.

India-Pakistan trade should be 10 times more than the current level, said Shanta Devarajan, a professor of the practice of international development at Georgetown University's Edmund A Walsh School of Foreign Service.

South Asian nations should be much

more open to the rest of the world as well since the region is “so much protectionist”, Devarajan said, adding that the region should separate its foreign policy from the economic policies.

While presenting the keynote paper, Franziska Ohnsorge, chief economist for South Asia at the World Bank, said that Vietnam is extraordinary as it is “open and diversified”, attracting more FDI.

South Asia will also have to be much more open to attract more trade and FDI, she added.

Deepak Mishra, director and chief executive of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, said East Asian nations like China, South Korea and Japan do good business despite geopolitical issues, but big trade is not taking place among the South Asian nations.

The East Asian countries successfully depolarised geopolitics while the South Asian leaders are thinking completely the opposite of their East Asian peers, he added.

Debapriya Bhattacharya, a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said that everything happens under supply chain pressure, particularly in South Asia, as the leaders of the region did not reform the trade policies to be more open.

“The old-fashioned trade policies will not function well any more, and reforms are needed,” he said.

The old-fashioned trade policies will not function well any more, and reforms are needed.

Debapriya Bhattacharya
CPD distinguished fellow



Rickelton century sets up 107-run win for Proteas

REUTERS, Karachi

South Africa opener Ryan Rickelton scored a maiden One-Day International century with a fluent 103 as his side eased to a 107-run win over Afghanistan in their opening Champions Trophy Group B fixture at the National Stadium in Karachi on yesterday.

South Africa won the toss and elected to bat, amassing 315 for six in their 50 overs on a wicket with pace and bounce that was more akin to their home conditions on the Highveld than a sub-continent style pitch.

Afghanistan's Rahmat Shah scored a fighting 90 but South Africa's seamers stifled the run-rate and picked up regular wickets as their opponents battled to stay in the contest and fell well short as they were bowled out for 208 in 43.3 overs.

Australia and England clash in the second Group B fixture in Lahore on Saturday.

“I was a bit edgy, but to contribute to the team and set us up for a winning performance, I am chuffed with that,” Rickelton said at the post-match presentation.

“The wicket played alright, the bounce was a bit inconsistent and you had to

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



South Africa opener Ryan Rickelton jumps in the air to celebrate his century against Afghanistan in their ICC Champions Trophy Group B fixture at the National Stadium in Karachi yesterday. Rickelton's 103 off 106 deliveries helped South Africa post 315 for six and set up a 107-run win for the Proteas, who bundled out the Afghans for 208 in 43.3 overs.

PHOTO: AFP

Case filed over ‘sexual assault, robbery’ on bus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Three days after the robbery on board a moving bus on Dhaka-Tangail highway, a case was filed with Mirzapur Police Station in Tangail early yesterday.

Omar Ali, a passenger of the bus and a resident of Baraigram upazila of Natore, filed the case accusing eight to nine unidentified men, said Abdullah Al Mamun, additional superintendent of police.

The case was filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act and Sections 395 and 397 of the Penal Code.

According to the complaint, Omar, a small business owner, boarded a bus of Unique Road Royals Paribahan from Gabtoli bus terminal in the capital around 11:25pm. There were 30 to 35 other passengers when the bus left for Rajshahi.

Around 1:00am, the bus stopped at Chandra Bypass in Kaliakair, Gazipur. Three to four new passengers boarded from there. Half an hour later, when the bus had driven past the Kharajora Flyover, eight to nine men stood up brandishing sharp weapons and threatening to kill anyone who would not comply with orders, says the complaint.

Three robbers moved to the front, held a knife to the driver's throat, and said, “You've driven enough; you won't be driving anymore.” They then dragged him to the back while another took control of the vehicle,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Urs halted in Manikganj, shrine ruined in Noakhali

STAR REPORT

The annual Urs Mubarak of late Baul singer Abdur Rashid Sarker Boyati was halted in Manikganj's Singair upazila yesterday following an attack by a group of locals and a counter-attack by Rashid's followers.

At least 10 people were allegedly injured in the incident that occurred in the Azimnagar area around 11:00am, reports our Manikganj correspondent.

Police said the law enforcers reached the spot and brought the situation under control upon receiving information about the incident.

Zahidul Islam Jahangir, officer-in-charge of Singair Police Station, said police were deployed to the area to avoid clashes.

Some people, including the daughter-in-law of Rashid, have been brought to the police station for questioning, he said.

Rashid was the first husband of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4