



# The Daily Star

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People's Right to Know

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## Cars, foreign tours, ACs to fight poverty

### Perc finds PRSP technical project a waste of funds

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

In the name of poverty reduction, the government has finalised a Tk 13.5 crore technical assistance project, stuffing it with air-conditioners, cars and foreign tours.

The project has drawn widespread criticism and the Public Expenditure Review Commission (PERC) has said 'this project is an unwarranted wastage of government resources and has manifested

as a prime example of being irrelevant to the real needs'.

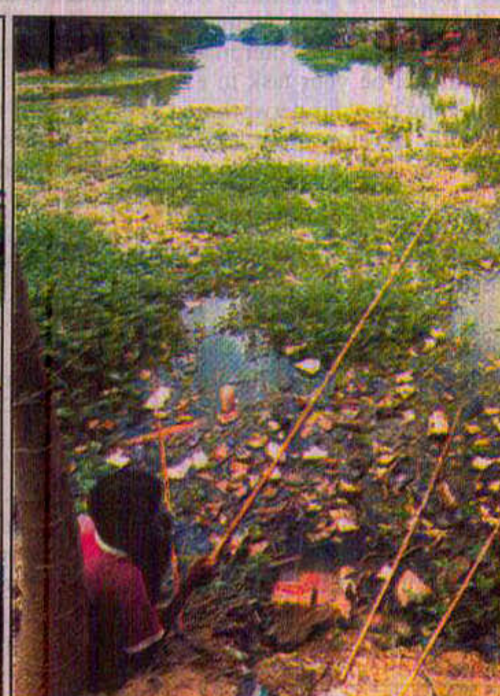
The General Economic Division (GED) of Planning Commission finalised the project for implementing the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

Titled 'Preparation of PRSP and Implementation of IPRSP and Millennium Development Goal Action Plan', it has an outlay of Tk 1.64 crore for consultants plus an additional Tk 64 lakh for foreign

consultants, Tk 2.14 crore for cars, Tk 1.80 crore for air-conditioners, Tk 3 crore for training and international education tours and Tk 5 crore for workshops, seminars and meeting.

The government has been implementing the three-year interim poverty reduction strategy paper (IPRSP) from July for speedy poverty alleviation. On the other hand, the government plans to frame the final

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Defying a Wasa notice, locals (L) are having bath in the Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra lake, used for supplying water from the Shitalakhiya to the new Syedabad Water Treatment Plant. The lake water is polluted at about 50 points, posing hazards to health. Another point (R) is piled up with waste where fishing goes on.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Yet another ammunition haul in Joypurhat

BSS, Joypurhat

Police yesterday seized huge explosives and lethal weapons from a graveyard near the scene of last week's fierce firefight in Joypurhat

and arrested two more alleged operatives of Jama'atul Mujahidin outfit from Thakurgaon.

Police said 55 homemade bombs and explosives packed in seven plastic containers and two glass

bottles, six sharp knives, 51 wires, 28 wicks and four combatant belts were found in the family graveyard of Montajer Rahman, the fugitive leader of the extremist group.

Meanwhile, the officer investigating the August 14 firefight was relieved of his duty for "suspicious behaviour" and official sources said the militants were planning a major act of sabotage.

"The materials were found as nearly 100 policemen were sweeping Uttar Moheshpur village for the looted arms and ammunition of the police and the cache of the outfit," a police officer said.

Police said they were near sure

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## INDIAN WATER DIVERSION PLAN JRC may meet next month

REAZ AHMAD

The long overdue Indo-Bangla Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) meet is likely to be held in New Delhi next month, paving the way for bilateral discussions on the highly contentious issue of India's river inter-linking project.

Official sources told The Daily Star yesterday that India recently indicated that the JRC would meet in Delhi sometime in September. The last JRC meeting took place in January 2002 in Dhaka.

"The dates are being worked out now," a top official said. But he declined to give details.

Earlier this month, Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmad had said, "My predecessor (in the ministry) LK Siddiqui sent a letter to India for early convening of the JRC meeting, but no response came by. After assuming office, I too wrote calling for immediate holding of the JRC meeting but to no avail."

JRC Member Dr Tawhidul Anwar Khan noted that though it was

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## Merchant's son, friend feared abducted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The son of a merchant and his friend went missing in Chittagong on Wednesday evening in an incident feared to be another abduction for ransom.

Police said Ibrahim Mia Simon, 17, son of Double Mooring businessman Rafiq Mia, and his friend Sanjoy Kumar Dev left home to attend a wedding ceremony in the neighbourhood but did not get back until filing of this report at 9:15 last night.

Simon's uncle Sultan Ahmed filed a general diary with the Double Mooring Police Station on Thursday.

Unconfirmed sources said an unknown person called Simon's home by cellphone and demanded a

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## BY-ELECTION NETRAKONA-3

### AL alleges rigging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday questioned the credibility of Netrokona-3 by-polls held on Friday and said the BNP-led four-party ruling alliance 'snatched its (AL) victory in a new style'.

This time the alliance intimidated voters and prevented them from coming to the polling stations, showed an inflated turnout of voters, cast false votes and drove AL's polling agents from polling centres to win the polls race. Activists of the BNP threatened voters particularly from the minority communities not to cast votes.

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### BNP says polls were fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has brushed aside the opposition Awami League's (AL) allegation of rigging in the Netrokona-3 parliamentary by-elections, saying it was 'one of the most free and fair polls'.

"It was one of the fairest polls ever held since independence. Voters cast their votes with great enthusiasm without any fear," said BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

Speaking at a press conference at his Baily Road official residence yesterday afternoon, he said the government at the request of the

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## Another suspect held, Jamal not yet rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong police yesterday arrested yet another person but could not make any progress in rescue of businessman and BNP leader Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury 29 days into his abduction.

Police yesterday (Friday) nabbed another person for his alleged involvement in the abduction.

Yesterday's 56-year-old arrestee Md Abdul Kader Chowdhury is

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## 1971 WAR WITH PAKISTAN India may make public official accounts

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The Indian government is likely to make public official accounts of what happened during the three wars the country has fought, including Bangladesh's independence war in 1971.

A decision to this effect has reportedly been taken by the government after the defence ministry took care of the reservations voiced by the Ministry of External Affairs over making the accounts public.

The official accounts of the wars India fought with China in 1962 and with Pakistan in 1965 and 1971 are reported to be ready and waiting to be

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## 4 killed in N'ganj road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Four people, two of a family, died and 20 others were injured in a head-on collision between a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Rajpur and a Monohardi-bound bus from Dhaka on the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway at Panchrupee, Arahazur in Narayanganj yesterday.

Two of the deceased are Javed Mia, 25, and his niece Lekha Begum, 8, while the identity of the two others

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## Tigers' best Test day

HASAN MASOOD from Karachi

Bangladesh had one of their best days in Test cricket when they dominated Pakistan on the third day of the first Test at Karachi yesterday.

Bangladesh were at 163 for three in their second innings, a lead of 105 runs, when the bats were taken off for the day.

Premier batsman Habibul Bashar again showed the way with an unbeaten 82, his second fifty in the match.

Bashar played a more cautious knock after starting in the same aggressive style that characterised his first innings 71. The fluent batsman put his head down to see out the day once two quick wickets fell, leaving the tourists on 83 for three.

Much to the frustration of the Pakistanis, the duo put on an unbeaten 80 runs to set up an intriguing prospect for the match.

"I was determined not to get out

today," said a tired-looking Bashar while boarding the team bus after the day's play.

"I have to play more carefully tomorrow (Saturday) so that we can bat for another two and a half sessions at least and get a substantial lead," added Bangladesh's highest run-getter in Test cricket.

Dropped twice on 0 and 23, Bashar occupied the crease for nearly four hours to hit seven boundaries off 174 balls.

Saleh, the 19-year-old from Sylhet, showed courage and class in his unbeaten 27, facing 94 balls in 128 minutes.

Bangladesh had suffered a mini-collapse when opener Hannan Sarker (30) missed an unnecessary sweep attempt to part-time offie Mohammad Hafiz and was adjudged LBW minutes before tea. Hannan produced 54 runs in company of Bashar after Javed Omar was dubiously declared leg-before to fast

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