

Politics not helping economy Says Dr Debapriya

Protecting the economy and keeping it in good shape on the part of political parties is the key to winning the national election, said eminent economist Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya yesterday.

"As this year is an election year, I see a very challenging situation in the coming days," he said, adding that judgement, wisdom and experience, not the theoretical approach, will be the key factors to the success in the national election.

implement the public expenditure programme, inefficient revenue collection system and weakness in the balance of payment for which the import growth is increasing faster than the export growth.

CORRUPTION HC stays case against CCC mayor for three months

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday stayed for three months the proceedings of the corruption case filed by the then Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) against Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury.

The ACC, ACC chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan, and members Prof Maniruzzaman Miah and Muniruddin Ahmed, ACC Secretary, ACC inspector of Chittagong Jahangir Alam have been made respondents in the rule.



US Congressman Joseph Crowley calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, left, at her office and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina, right, at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.



Govt to expand health service infrastructure PM tells parliament

UNB, Dhaka

The government has a plan to expand the infrastructure of health service from grassroots (village and union) to national level to ensure 'health services for all', Prime Minister Khaleda Zia told Parliament yesterday.

present government restarted in January 2004 the service by family planning field workers through visiting houses that was stopped by the previous government.

she said during the tenure of the present government, so far 2,707 medical officers, 2,000 nurses, 3,000 health assistants, and 15,316 class III and IV employees have been appointed.

PAY HIKE FOR PSC MEMBERS Bill passed amid opposition objection

BDNEWS, Dhaka

"The Members of the Public Service Commission (Terms and Conditions of Service Amendment) Bill, 2006" has been passed increasing salary and facilities of the PSC members amid strong objection from the main opposition Awami League in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.



Centre for Policy Dialogue Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya speaks on 'Bangladesh economy in the period of democratic transition' at a luncheon meeting hosted by France-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the city yesterday.

7 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least seven people, including three of a family, were killed and 14 injured in separate road accidents in Tangail, Kushtia and Sirajganj yesterday and on Tuesday night.

while Lipi was injured seriously in the accident. Locals rushed Lipi to Sakhipur Upazila Health Complex in a critical condition. She succumbed to her injuries on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Injured Mahabul, 18, of Bahalbaria, and local postmaster Selim Munshi, 40, were taken to Kushtia Sadar Hospital. Later, Selim Munshi was shifted to Dhaka as his condition deteriorated.



Pia Phiri new UNHCR representative

Pia Prytz Phiri has taken over as the new Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Bangladesh, says a UNHCR press release.

SHIVA CHATURDASHI Security of devotees demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Parishad yesterday urged the government to take special security measures for the devotees as the three-day Shiva Chaturdashi, a religious festival, begins on February 25 at Sitakunda, Chittagong.

AL protests move to rename bridge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League yesterday strongly protested the move to rename Shaheed Maizuddin Bridge on the river Shitalakkhya at Kaliganj, saying that the alliance government is trying to wipe out the contribution of Maizuddin who sacrificed his life during the anti-autocratic movement.

the city. Demanding cancellation of the decision to rename the bridge, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said the government has also renamed the Bangabandhu Bridge and removed his portrait from the bridge out of political vengeance.

Four cops rob DU student of Tk 3,000

DU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University student yesterday alleged that a group of four police constables robbed him of Tk 3,000 at Bangla Motor intersection in the city on Monday night.

Police and witnesses said the sand-laden truck coming from Lal Shah Bridge ploughed through seven shops at Bahalbaria Bazar at about 6:00am killing three

people on the spot and injuring two others. The situation turned violent when police charged batons on the angry protesters to disperse them.



Obituary

Kazi Anwar Rashid, the youngest son of late Khan Bahadur Kazi Abdul Rashid, last Zamindar of Sonargaon, died of cancer at a hospital in New York on February 18 at the age of 67, says a press release.



Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, former chief advisor of a caretaker government, speaks at an international seminar on 'Education for development' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Shikshak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad organised the seminar.

20 houses gutted in Fatulla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Twenty houses and a packaging factory were gutted in separate fire incidents at Fatullah in the district yesterday.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar on election Dhaka Language Club organises a seminar on 'Political consensus is a must for trade and investment' with Energy Advisor Mahmudur Rahman as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

and CSOs Can Do'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 2:00pm. JP discussion Jatiya Party will hold a discussion to mark the Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day. National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

12 vessels fined

CU CORRESPONDENT

The mobile court of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) here yesterday awarded a fine of Tk 1.5 lakh to 12 vessels for violating maritime pact.

WEATHER TODAY No change in temperature likely UNB, Dhaka Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.