Politics not helping economy

Says Dr Debapriya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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.

Both the ruling party and the opposition should not do anything that hinders the growth of the country's economy, said Debapriya, also the executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Politics and the economy are dependent on each other, but in the context of Bangladesh, politics is not helping the economy, he added.

Dr Debapriva was speaking on 'Bangladesh economy in the period of democratic transition' at a luncheon meeting hosted by France-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Dhaka.

"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

Despite some external and internal shocks such as floods, phaseout of quota system and oil price hike in the last fiscal year, the country's economy is still in a good state mainly because of high inflow of remittance and export growth, he

"The country achieved 5.6 percent GDP growth in the last fiscal and the growth is expected to cross six percent this fiscal," he added.

Dr Debapriya, however, said the Bangladesh economy is still facing some obstacles, including the government's inability to properly

Centre for Policy Dialogue Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya speaks on 'Bangladesh economy in the

while Lipi was injured seriously in

Locals rushed Lipi to Sakhipur

Upazila Health Complex in a critical

condition. She succumbed to her

injuries on the way to Dhaka

driver managed to escape.

edical College Hospital (DMCH)

Police seized the truck but its

A case has been filed with

In the district, at least 20 people

Sakhipur Police Station in this

were killed and over 100 others

were injured in separate road

accidents at different places in the

two others injured when a truck

ploughed through several wayside

shops at a market at Mirpur upazila

on Kushtia-Bheramara road yes-

as teastall owner Mohsin

Pramanik, 60, his grandson

Soleman, 25, and Shariful Islam

alias Shukkur, 29, manager of

Grameen Bank's Rupganj branch

The deceased were identified

Three people were killed and

UNB from Kushtia reports:

France-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce President A Qayyum Khan and Rifat Rashid.

regard.

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.

The private sector, which is the engine for the growth of economy, has also failed to bring about a change in the economy and society, he added.

"There is a lot of unutilised capacity in the country's overall economy and we have to utilise the opportunities properly," he said. "With the present linear growth rate, our per capita income will stand at US\$900 after 15 years."

French Ambassador Jacques-Andre Costilhes and France-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce President A Qayyum Khan were present at the meeting.

> nepotism, and abusing power in allocating 23 stalls at Muradpur bus stand in the city. ACC inspector Jahangir framed charge sheet against Mahiuddin

CORRUPTION

HC stays case

against CCC

three months

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

After hearing a writ petition by Mahiuddin Chowdhury, a division

bench of the High Court comprising

Justice Awlad Ali and Justice Zinat

Ara also issued a rule upon the Anti-

Corruption Commission (ACC) and

concerned authorities to show cause

as to why the proceedings of the case

against the CCC Mayor should not be

Sultan Hossain Khan, and members

Prof Maniruzzaman Miah and

Muniruddin Ahmed, ACC Secretary,

ACC inspector of Chittagong

Jahangir Alam have been made

filed a corruption case against

Mahiuddin Chowdhury with Kotwali

Police Station in Chittagong accusing him of committing corruption and

The BAC, on October 13, 2002,

respondents in the rule.

The ACC, ACC chairman Justice

declared without lawful authority.

mayor for

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Chowdhury.

Chowdhury and 23 others and filed it with the court on February 9, 2005. The HC, on October 20, 2005, stayed the order of absorbing

Jahangir in the ACC. The CCC mayor filed the writ petition with the HC challenging the validity of the proceedings of the case and charge sheet framed by

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud assisted by advocate HS Deb Brahman moved for the petitioners while Deputy Attorney General (DAG)



period of democratic transition' at a luncheon meeting hosted by France-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the city yesterday. On his left is French Ambassador Jacques-Andre Costilhes and on his right are

7 killed in road accidents Pia Phiri new

people on the spot and injuring two

Bahalbaria, and local postmaster

people put up barricade with logs

on the road, disrupting traffic move-

ment between southern and north-

when police charged batons on the

angry protesters to disperse them.

Sirajganj adds: A cloth trader was

killed and 12 others were injured in

a road accident on the Jamuna

taken to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Police and witnesses said the

accident took place at around

6.30am when a Tangail-bound bus

from Belkuchi skidded off the road

Humidity in

percentage

way yesterday morning.

The situation turned violent

Our Correspondent from

ern districts for several hours.

Injured Mahabul, 18, of

others.

UNHCR representative

Selim Munshi, 40, were taken to Pia Prytz Phiri has taken over as the Kushtia Sadar Hospital. Later, Selim Munshi was shifted to Dhaka as his condition deteriorated. Refugees (UNHCR) in Bangladesh, Angered by the incident, local says a UNHCR press release.

Phiri submitted her letter of accreditation to Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday, the press

Prior to her new posting in Bangladesh, Phiri was the UNHCR Representative in Ireland from July 2000 to January 2006. She has been working with UNHCR since 1984, holding posts in Zambia, Turkey, Nordic and Baltic States, Southern Africa and Kenya

Phiri holds a Masters degree in bridge on the Dhaka-Bogra high-Law from Copenhagen University in The dead was identified as Denmark, and studied International Relations and French language in Badruzzaman Buddhu, a cloth the Sorbonne University, France. trader of Belkuchi. The injured were

UNHCR has been working in Bangladesh since 1992, providing international protection and assistance to the refugees and other persons of concern. As part of its promotional activities on Refugee Law, the agency has been providing technical and material support to the government institutions, the judiciary, bar associations, academic institu-

tions, media and NGOs.

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

His body is due to arrive by an Emirates Airlines flight on February

His namaz-e-janaza will be held

after Juma prayers at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque the same day. He left behind his wife, one son, three daughters and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.



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

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.

As part of the plan, 3,000 wardbased health assistants have already been appointed, Khaleda said while replying to Sohrab Uddin of BNP during the PM's question

Besides, she said, in order to prevent the high birth rate and reduce total reproduction rate and mother and child mortality, the

SHIVA CHATURDASHI

Security of

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,

Around five to seven lakh people will

Parishad President Prem Ranjan

Dev in a statement urged the authorities

to make arrangement so that all Dhaka-

Chittagong and Dhaka-Comilla trains

halt for ten minutes at Sitakunda and

launch special bus service on the

gather at Chandranath temple on the

devotees

Chittagono

peak of the hill.

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

been taken to make some 43,540 field workers permanent by transferring their jobs from the development sector of the Family Planning department to the revenue sector. As part of the process, the jobs

of 16,762 workers have already been transferred to the revenue sector and the transfer of the remainder was in final stage, she

Giving details of the steps taken by her government in health sector,

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-

The BNP-Jamaat alliance gov-

ernment has been renaming differ-

ent bridges, installations, auditori-

ums and institutions as part of its

design to erase the names of promi-

nent persons from the history, AL

leaders said at a press conference

autocratic movement.

AL protests move

to rename bridge

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.

From this year, the number of seats at 13 government hospitals has been raised from 1,450 to 2,040 students to facilitate further 590 students to receive medical education, she told the House.

Besides, the government has so far supplied 279 ambulances and set up 285 X-ray machines for ensuring the standard and availability of health services, she

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

AL leaders Tofail Ahmed, Motia

Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta,

Obaidul Quader, Mukul Bose,

Aktheruzzaman. Sultan

Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Abdul

Mannan Khan, BM Mozammel

Haque, Sohel Taj, Jahid Hasan

Russell were present at the press

out of political vengeance.

salary in lieu of Tk 13,500. Barrister Aminul Haq, in-charge of the establishment ministry, faced strong objection from the opposition lawmakers when he placed the bill in the House for

PAY HIKE FOR PSC

Bill passed

opposition

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

As per the new law, the chair-

man of the Public Service

Commission (PSC) will get Tk

23,750 instead of Tk 15,375 while

the members will get Tk 20,700 as

objection

Sangsad yesterday.

BDNEWS, Dhaka

MEMBERS

amid

Taking part in the discussion, Awami League lawmakers Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Mohammad Nasim, Advocate Rahmat Ali, Faruk Khan, Panchanan Biswas, Shaiahan Khan and Shamsur Rahman Sharif placed proposals in the House to cancel the bill and

elicit public opinion in this regard. Chief Whip of the Opposition Abdus Shahid and Mirza Azam raised their voice in protest in the House as they did not get chance to have discussion despite giving notice with proposals to elicit public

opinion. Besides, AL lawmaker Advocate Rahmat Ali and independent legislator MM Shahin proposed amendments to several articles of the bill during the discussion. But their amendment propos-

als were quashed by voice votes. The opposition lawmakers said the PSC members lost their neutrality since they were appointed.

They sought guidelines from the PM. Question papers of all the examinations under the PSC were leaked during the rule of the incumbent government giving a chance to the unqualified people loyal to the ruling party to get appointed in different posts, they said.

"Is there any necessity to increase the salary and facilities of the PSC members who are earning money resorting to corruption,' they posed a question.

They said the government is providing them a chance to go for further corruption increasing their salaries and other facilities as many of them will take part in the next election with the ruling party

In reply, Barrister Aminul Haq said the bill was brought to increase the salaries and facilities of the government officials and employees. It has nothing to do with corruption, he said.

He said the opposition places allegations of politicisation and

corruption whenever the government does anything. But it cannot be so that whatever they do is right, he added.

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 port act.

the main jetty area of the port to Sadarghat area. CPA Magistrate Mohammad

The drive was conducted from

Munir Chowdhury led the drive.

Of the vessels, three lighter vessels were fined for illegal entry to the Chittagong Port Channel while a coaster vessel was fined for risky movement at the port channel by overloading from outer anchor-

In the same drive, seven vessels including oil tanker, lighter vessel, fishing vessel and cargo trawler were awarded fines for tax evasion and another one for lack of skilled driver, sources said

World Fedration of Teachers' Unions (WFTU/FISE) विश्व विकास सम्मान International Seminar on Education for Develop উনুয়নের জন্য শিক্ষা শীর্গক আন্তর্জাতিক সেমিনার Muhammad Habibur Rahman Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal Venue Date Dr. M. Akhtaruzzaman Host: Bangladesh Shikshak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad বাংলাদেশ শিক্ষক-কর্মচারী ঐক্য

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 vesterday

Twenty houses were gutted and one hundred domestic animals were burned when fire broke out at a residential area of Char Gharkul village at Baktabali in the early hours yesterday.

Eight villagers were injured when they were trying to extinguish the

In another incident, RM Packaging Factory of Hajiganj under Fatullah was gutted and valuables were damaged. Fire brigadiers controlled the fire in two

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.

View exchange

Sujan, an NGO working for good governance, organises a view exchange meeting on 'Ninth National Parliamentary Election: Expectations from the Mass Media'. Venue: National Pres Club. Time: 10:30am.

Discussion on Bird

Brac Advocacy and Human Rights Unit will hold a discussion on 'The Bird Flu Situation in Bangladesh: What NGOs

Blue for Peace

JP discussion

Inn. Time: 2:00pm.

Family of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria will stage a silent sit-in as part of their Blue for Peace Programme demanding trial of the killers of former minister. Venue: In front of

National Museum. Time: 4:30pm.

and CSOs Can Do'. Venue: Brac Centre

Jatiya Party will hold a discussion to

mark the Amar Ekushey and

International Mother Language Day.

National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Rotary meet

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Kawran Bazar will be held. Venue: Aashiana Restaurant, Panthapath. Time: 6:00pm.

Four cops rob Police and witnesses said the and hit the railing of the Jamuna sand-laden truck coming from bridge as the driver lost control over Lalan Shah Bridge ploughed the steering through seven shops at Bahalbaria Police sent the body to Sadar Bazar at about 6:00am killing three Hospital morgue for autopsy. A Dhaka University student yester-

in Narayangani

DU student of Tk 3,000

DU CORRESPONDENT

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

OUR CORRESPONDENT from

Tangail adds: Three people of a

family, including a child and a

woman, were killed in a road acci-

dent in the district on Tuesday

Kayem Uddin, 60, of Kachua vil-

lage under Sakhipur upazila, his

grandson Shimul, 5, and daughter-

The accident occurred when a

Dhaka-bound truck from Sakhipur

crushed a motorcycle coming from

the opposite direction under its

wheels in front of the Krishi Bank on

Kachua-Araipar Road at the

Kachua Bazar area under Sakhipur

upazila at around 9:00pm, police

Uddin and Shimul died on the spot

The motorcycle riders Kayem

in law Lipi Begum, 25.

and witnesses said.

The dead were identified as

esterday and on Tuesday night,

day alleged that a group of four police constables robbed him of Tk 3,000 at Bangla Motor intersection in the city on Monday night. Saiful Islam, a third year student

of Bangla department, submitted an application to Proctor AK Firoz ahmed in this regard yesterday and demanded punishment to the policemen involved.

"I was waiting for a bus to return to my hall when the police constables called me and asked where was going to. They also behaved roughly and dragged me into roadside darkness." he said.

"I showed them my identity card. but Sharif, one of the constables tore it and took my money from my pocket." Saiful added.

When contacted, Ramna police said there is no constable by that name in their police station.

Ramna Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mahbubur Rahman told The Daily Star, "If I receive such complaint, I will definitely find out the culprits and take punitive action against them.'

Proctor AK Firoz Ahmed said he has directed the university security officer to take necessary steps regarding the incident.

No change in temperature likely

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.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged night tempera-Highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

at Chuadanga and lowest 19.3 degree Celsius at Teknaf. The sun sets in the capital at 5:58pm today and rises at 6:25am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

Temperature

major cities and towns yesterday were

Morning Evening Chittagong 30.6 21.5 73 82 Rajshahi 34.0 20.6 34.0 22.8 87 47 Khulna 33.2 22.3 Barisal Sylhet 26.4 21.5 99 Cos's Bazar