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TODAY'S ISSUE 24 PAGES

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVI NO. 190

DHAKA WEDNESDAY JULY 26, 2006

SHRABON 11, 1413 BS

JAMADIUS SANI 29, 1427 HJRI

24 PAGES PRICE: Tk. 7.00

www.thedailystar.net

Tokyo to double credit at 0.01pc interest rate

Japan FM says political stability, good governance key to FDI inflow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Attaching the highest importance to holding free and fair general elections in Bangladesh for consolidating democracy, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso yesterday said good governance and political stability are vital for attracting foreign investment.

"It is important to hold free and fair elections in Bangladesh and I will emphasize this during my meetings with the prime minister and the leader of the opposition," Taro Aso said. Japan intends to send a monitoring team to oversee the elections scheduled for early next year, he added.

Speaking at a joint press conference at the foreign ministry follow-



Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

ing official talks with his Bangladesh counterpart M Morshed Khan, Taro Aso highly appreciated Bangladesh's economic growth at more than 6 percent and said Japan would double its annual credit to 25 billion yen with a nominal interest rate of 0.01 percent from the current fiscal year.

"As a friend, Japan will continue its utmost support for development of Bangladesh. We will also assist the government to enhance its governance and counter-terrorism capability," he said and praised the arrest of top militant leaders.

Replying to a question on Japanese investment in Bangladesh, he said Japanese

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Japanese help in Padma Bridge, subway sought

UNB, Dhaka

Seeking Japanese assistance for some major projects, including subway in the capital, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said Japan's support extensively contributed to Bangladesh's development and advances.

She sought Japan's cooperation in building the planned Padma Bridge and installation of underground train system in Dhaka City to improve the traffic system and ease the congestion.

The prime minister sought the cooperation when visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso paid a courtesy call on her at her office.

She thanked Aso for Japan's continuous assistance in Bangladesh's development process

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Illegal VoIP business hits BTTB earning

MONJUR MAHMUD

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) revenues have plummeted by Tk 100 crore in a year hitting a record five-year low due mainly to illegal business of Internet telephony.

The setback for the state-run telecom operator came at a time when overseas phone calls, once the prime source of its earnings, are growing by 10 to 15 percent a year and incoming calls from different countries rise by 20 percent annually.

"Given that the market is booming, our business growth should have doubled in last five years, but

instead our income is coming down every year due to illegal VoIP business," said a top BTTB official. The board earned Tk 1,330 crore in the fiscal 2005-06, the lowest in

the last five years and could not achieve its income target in the last 10 years. The earnings had been Tk 1,425 crore in 2004-05, Tk 1,531

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| BTTB'S REVENUE INCOME IN LAST 6 YEARS | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Fiscal Year | Revenue Target | Revenue Income |
| 2005-06 | 1,800 | around 1,330 |
| 2004-05 | 1,650 | 1,425 |
| 2003-04 | 1,702 | 1,531 |
| 2002-03 | 1,602 | 1,544 |
| 2001-02 | 1,763 | 1,583 |
| 2000-01 | 1,600 | 1,305 |

Source: BTTB
Taka in crore

52 more dengue patients taken to hospitals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another 52 people were admitted to different hospitals and clinics in the capital yesterday, raising the number of dengue patients to 606, according to a count by Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

However, sources said the actual number is much higher than the official figure, as the patients at different hospitals across the country were not included in the count that DCC started on June 28.

During May-October last year, a total of 1,048 people were diagnosed with dengue across the country.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

CONTRACT FOR MEGHNAGHAT-3 POWER PLANT Secret move to get purchase body nod

SHARIF KHAN

In violation of government policy and rules, the power ministry is secretly seeking the cabinet purchase committee's approval for awarding an unsolicited contract to novice and unknown US-Irish joint venture Cadogan-Manning Group (CMG) for the 450 megawatt Meghnaghat-3 power project.

Interestingly, if the project is awarded to CMG, it will not have any equity in the project. As per the

CMG proposal, the project will be financed 100 percent by Stone and Youngberg and Eagle Financial Group, US. Such financing violates the country's Private Sector Power Generation Policy that demands the contractor will have a minimum of 20 percent stake in the project.

The power ministry last month prepared a briefing for the purchase committee in which it claimed that no policy or rule would be violated if the contract

was awarded to CMG. This briefing will be placed before the committee soon for approval, sources said.

The ministry also tried to show that the opaque deal with CMG, which contains numerous loopholes favouring the country, is much better than the AES Meghnaghat-1 project implemented through a transparent and competitive process.

The briefing mentions that CMG offers a 20-year levelised

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Fighting rages as Israel besieges Hezbollah HQ

Olmert vows to press on with offensive; Rice says no to immediate truce

AFP, REUTERS, Tyrel Beirut

Fierce fighting raged yesterday between Israeli forces and Lebanese guerrillas around the border town of Bint Jbeil, a Hezbollah military stronghold besieged by Israeli troops as they push deeper into Lebanese territory.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said yesterday he was determined to pursue Israel's offensive against Hezbollah as he met US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to discuss the war in Lebanon.

"We are using the basic elementary right of self-defence," Olmert said alongside Rice in remarks before they held talks.

But Olmert said: "We are not fighting the Lebanese government or the Lebanese people. We are fighting against Hezbollah."

Rice, in Israel after making a surprise visit to war-battered Beirut, repeated Washington's stance that an immediate ceasefire would only put off a long-term solution to the conflict.

"A durable solution will be one that strengthens the forces of peace

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Voters not sure about enrolment

No receipts given to them after listing

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Eligible people applying for voter registration have no way to make claims if their names are not on the voter list as they are not being given any acknowledgement receipts against submission of registration forms.

Amid this total uncertainty, they have to depend on the temporary field level staff who are distributing and collecting the forms for inclusion and deletion of names in the existing voter list.

The Election Commission (EC) is also not maintaining any procedure to examine the authenticity of the applications for including names in the voter list. Many field level election officials feared that the accuracy of the voter list may be

compromised. Further, no draft list based on the ongoing task will be published. The EC has repeatedly claimed that there is no scope for publishing a draft voter list.

Although the form for including and deleting names has a provision for providing the applicant with an acknowledgement receipt, the EC has relaxed the provision.

If any of these election officials does not submit the collected applications to the registration officers—who will update the electoral roll based on these forms—the applicants have no scope to lodge claims due to the lack of any document supporting their claims.

"We do not know the legal explanation, but we were asked not to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Medical wastes dumped freely

MORSHED ALI KHAN

Most of the highly hazardous wastes generated in the 860 registered hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres in the capital are dumped on open spaces, into rivers and roadside bins. This exposes the city dwellers to a wide range of health precariousness, according to experts in the health sector.

None of the 15 state-run hospitals in the city, generating the highest amount of hospital wastes, are equipped with any sort of safe disposal system. For instance, with two tons of wastes generated every day, the 1,700-bed Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) is the largest producer of medical wastes in the country, and all its highly dangerous medical wastes are dumped on public places.

Moreover, huge amount of human limbs, body parts also find their way into Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) bins placed near the hospitals. During heavy rainfall, the rainwater washes all sorts of wastes on to the busy city streets.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Ragpickers collect medical wastes dumped beside a bin in front of Orthopaedic Hospital at Shyamoli in the capital as they are unaware of the risk of being infected with diseases.



The 14-party opposition combine's road march starting from Abdullahpur in Tongi heads for Mohakhali in Dhaka yesterday.

Teachers declare month-long agitation

Hartal on Aug 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The striking teachers will go for a month-long agitation programme from July 28 protesting what they said is government indifference to their demands.

They plan to barricade roads and highways for one hour in all district headquarters on August 1 and stage a grand sit-in on August 22 and enforce a half-day hartal in the capital on August 23 as part of the agitation.

The programme was announced at a rally of teachers under the banner of National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

Teachers and employees of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas under their four platforms have been on an indefinite strike from July 6 to press home their demands including cent percent salary from the public exchequer.

The month-long programme includes sending emergency letters to the Human Right Commission of United Nations on July 28, rallies and processions at all upazila levels on July 30, representatives' meeting at educational institutions from August 2 to 5, rallies and processions at district levels on August 6 and divisional rallies from August 8.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Advertisement

Customers Beware! The easiest way to find out Fake Televisions!

When you will jaunt around the electronics market of Bangladesh you will see lots and lots of Sony Color and Sony Black & White televisions. For your information Sony doesn't make Black & White televisions anymore and as long as color televisions are concerned, are those fake or genuine?

This is a country where people manufacture artificial medicine and even artificial powdered milk for kids to earn more money!! So making phony televisions of world renowned Sony is not something impossible. But if you just be a little bit careful then you can get rid of this forgery. How?

During the 19th century when television was first invented the type of picture tube that was used was called Shadow mask Picture Tube.

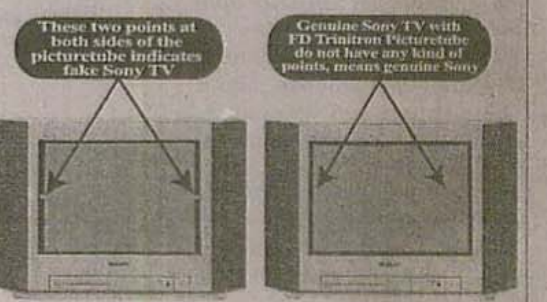
In the Shadow mask Picture Tube one kind of wired net is used and the overall structure of this picture tube is Oval. As a result the television looks oval from the outside as well. Those televisions that are still being created using the same old shadow mask technology; a customer can easily identify it even if the company of that particular television tries to make it flat by putting an extra glass. How? When the television is turned on or off, if you look at it very closely and carefully, you will notice that at the right and left side of the vertical black portion of the television screen, in the middle there are two points, one at each side. These points indicate that the television is created using the ancient shadow mask technology. All the televisions that are developed using ancient shadow mask picture tube technology, because of its oval structure, must have these two points at both of its sides.

But in the whole world, televisions that are created by Sony do not have any kind of spot in its screen. Because after a long research, when Sony Japan first created the FD Trinitron Picture Tube, it did not consist of any kind of spots because the picture tube itself was FLAT and had four sharp plane corners, so no spots/marks were necessary to balance the picture tube on the screen. As the

picture tube was flat even from the outside. The rays that are radiated from FD Trinitron Picture Tube are harmless for eyes. As a result, if a person watches a genuine Sony television for several consecutive hours, that person's eyes won't feel tired and have any harmful effect. The color of the picture is natural and the television lasts more than a television made by the shadow mask technology. This new technology created an unbreakable new world record.

So after the new technology became famous world wide, it was registered by Sony Corporation for their own business purpose. As a result no one can use this extraordinary picture tube other than Sony Corporation. So if anyone tries to deceive customers by using Sony logo on a cheap television and gives a worthless shot of making an oval television flat by putting an extra glass on the screen and tries to sell it by saying that it's a genuine Sony - a person with a normal eyesight will quickly identify it as a fake Sony television by noticing the visible spots at both sides of the screen.

A 100 percent genuine Sony television with FD Trinitron Picture Tube and other genuine parts with 5 years after sale service can only be purchased from country wide SONY-RANGS 64 showrooms and more than 200 dealer networks. Before purchasing please make sure that the documents of SONY-RANGS are in order.



Source: R1, News