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# The Daily Star

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## Higher supplementary duty makes up for VAT shortfall

By A Special Correspondent

Revenue collection targets for the first half of the ongoing fiscal year have been almost fully realised, thanks to collection under supplementary duties.

Provisional estimate of total revenue collection for July-December 1993 is Taka 4057 crores. This is 99.18 per cent of the six monthly target. The revenue target for fiscal year 1993-94 is Taka 9360 crore. NBR officials are confident final figures for July-December 1993 revenue collection will be higher than provisional estimates.

The target for receipt under supplementary duties on import is Taka 30 crore for the entire fiscal year. This target has already been exceeded in the first half of the year. Receipt under supplementary duties for July-December 1993 was Taka 37.03 crores which is 320.33 per cent of the six-monthly target. Other supplementary duties have also shown good yield. Collection of domestic supplementary duty has exceeded the target for July-December 1993 by nearly Taka 117 crores.

By collecting an extra Taka 142 crores as supplementary duty, the government has covered a large part of the Taka 165 crores shortfall in collection of value added tax (VAT) from domestic sources. The six monthly target for domestic VAT collection was Taka 589 crores and only 72 per cent of this target could be realised. VAT receipt on import was better at 98 per cent of the six monthly target of Taka 826 crore.

While the government's revenue collection programme is largely on track, the programme to invest surplus revenue is faltering badly. Sources in the IMED, a division of the Planning Ministry which is responsible for monitoring project implementation, say that only 17 per cent of the annual target for ADP expenditure has actually been spent in five months.

With the public sector unable to invest surplus revenue by the full amount, the government is being forced to think about ways in which the tax regime can be eased. And, private investors are being looked upon as most eligible for future softer tax terms. Customs duty on capital machinery for export-oriented industries has been withdrawn. Further concession in the form of lowering of import duty on machinery spares for all sectors is being considered seriously by the Finance Ministry.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing an election rally at Azampur, Uttara in the city, seeking votes for the 'fish' — symbol of her party's mayoral candidate Mohammad Hanif — yesterday.

## Major parties take city polls seriously

By Nurul Kabir

The upcoming city corporation polls, although constitutionally considered non-partisan like elections to any other local government body, now appear to be a political struggle of the leading parties of the country.

The major parties, especially the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the largest opposition Awami League (AL), seem to have taken the polls as a means of showing each other's superiority, in terms of public support, to the rest of the citizens living outside the four mayoral constituencies.

The policy-makers of both parties strongly believe the results of the city corporation polls would definitely influence that of the next parliamentary elections, due in early 1996.

Considering this, both Begum Khaleda Zia, Chairperson of the BNP and Sheikh Hasina, the AL President, are now out canvassing for their respective candidates in the city polls.

While the BNP and the AL are engaged in a power and prestige right, the Jatiya Party (JP), which had been facing resistance in holding rallies across the country since long, is now busy exploiting the present 'resistance-free' political environment for consolidating its base in the major cities.

The Jamaat-e-Islami, disappointed at the criticism against it during the 11th session of Parliament, has decided to 'show' the BNP, the AL and others its own strength in the four major cities.

The leftist eight-parties alliance, on the other hand, is using the city polls to consolidate their strength, especially in the capital. Convinced that, although a dedicated politician, will not win the polls, the Left parties are using the occasion to make the people aware of the alliance's aims and objectives.

However, while campaigning in favour of their respective candidates, the BNP, the AL and the Left alliance and the Jamaat have adopted an identical strategy, that is, soliciting votes through door-to-door canvassing.

The JP nominees, especially the mayoral candidates, are visiting the market places resistance in holding rallies

## Armed attack on Hasina's election rally in city

By Staff Correspondent

An armed attack foiled an election rally attended by the Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina at Khilkhet on the outskirts of the city yesterday afternoon.

The AL supporters managed to rescue their leader from the showers of brickbats and put her on board her crimson Nissan Patrol jeep at around 4:45 pm. The jeep of the AL chief was damaged before it drove off following the violence.

According to witnesses, the trouble erupted at around 4:30 pm when the AL general secretary Zillur Rahman urged the local people near the Khilkhet level-crossing to refrain from voting for an independent commissioner candidate — Md Rafiq. A missile of chairs landed on the podium near Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina, who joined the Khilkhet rally on her way back from Azampur, was immediately shielded by her party colleagues on the stage. A section of the audience, allegedly supporters of Rafiq, retreated to the bazaar area of Khilkhet — yards from the meeting venue.

Rafiq's supporters started



Prime Minister and chairperson of the BNP Begum Khaleda Zia and her party's mayoral candidate Mirza Abbas waving at an election rally at the Khilgaon crossing in the city yesterday.

## Khaleda's hectic campaign in city

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, passed another hectic day in the capital yesterday campaigning for her party's mayoral nominee Mirza Abbas and the party backed commissioner candidates.

Thousands of men, women and children greeted the Prime Minister when she toured Mohakhali, Banani, the Gulshan and Baridhara diplomatic enclave, Badda, Rampura, Khilgaon, Goran, Chawkbazar and Labagh areas.

Starting from her Tejgaon office at 4:30 pm, Begum Zia stopped at 16 places during her six and a half hours tour of the city areas. The people raised slogans in favour of Mirza Abbas and his election symbol 'Bicycle'.

She had only three scheduled

## Ministries fight for possession of vessels

By Special Correspondent

The ministries of Shipping and Food have been engaged in a tug of war over the possession of eight cargo vessels and the dispute is to be referred to the Prime Minister's office for a settlement.

The low-draft cargo vessels worth over four crore taka are owned by the Food Directorate but have been lying unused for long eight years at the Narayanganj Dockyard of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC). The BIWTC has been taking care of the vessels each having a capacity of 350 tonnes.

The Food Directorate, under the Ministry of Food, decided last year to dispose of the vessels through tenders and has already accepted offers from private buyers. The total price offered is about Taka 1.8 crore.

Meanwhile, the BIWTC, which is under the Ministry of Shipping, has claimed 2.07 crore taka from the Food Directorate towards maintenance of the vessels for so long. The BIWTC has also offered the Food Directorate Taka 3.25 crore as price for the vessels. The corporation wants to settle its claim for maintenance from part of the offered price. Such a deal would still give the Food Directorate a sum of 1.18 crore taka in cash.

An authoritative BIWTC source said that the corporation has not received any posi-

## Foreign cash fuels DSE upturn

Star Report

Buoyed by a healthy interest by foreign investors a record Tk 13.17 crore worth of shares were transacted at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday as last week's bullish trend continued unabated.

Market operators, however, cautioned that it would be difficult to sustain this trend for long because of the severe paucity of shares in the stock market.

The DSE all-share price index gained over 28 points on the day and stood at 516.56 as against last week's closing on Thursday at 487.26.

"Foreign investors were the primary buyers on the day while the domestic buyers also remained active," a DSE official said.

Sixty-two issues were traded during the day, of which 54 issues gained, four declined and four others remained unchanged in value. Transactions in volume stood at 1,63,711 shares at a value of Tk 13,17,56,839.

The most heavily traded shares were of Beximco Pharmaceuticals, 1,01,846 of its shares were transacted while the closing rate stood at Tk 1200.85. A substantial

## Aminul Haq relieved as Attorney-Gen

Attorney General Aminul Haq has been relieved of his responsibilities with effect from January 2, reports UNB.

An official announcement yesterday said Deputy Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandakar was appointed the Attorney General in addition to his own duties until further orders.

The brief announcement said the appointment, approved by the President, has been made as the Attorney General Aminul Haq is now under treatment abroad and absent from the country.

But Aminul Haq, who is in the capital, last night told UNB: "I'm very much in the country and I'm quite well."

"I'm not aware of the government order," said Haq who returned home on January 17 from Saudi Arabia where he had a medical checkup.

He declined to offer any comment on the government order.

## India keen to replicate Grameen Bank

Star Report

The government of India has expressed its keen interest to start Grameen Bank replication projects in that country.

In a recent letter addressed to Dr Muhammad Yunus, the Managing Director of the Grameen Bank, the Joint Director of the Department of Industrial Development at the Ministry of Industry of India, Dr D C Srivastava, sought the help of the bank to start replication projects in his country.

He expressed the Indian government's desire to induce some non-governmental organisations to start some Grameen Bank replication projects and also proposed to send a team of officials to Dhaka to gain first-hand knowledge about its operations.

## US trade show opens in city

By Staff Correspondent

Cokes, computers, caterpillars and all that symbolise American business outside converged at Hotel Sheraton in the capital with the inauguration of the US Trade Show '94 Saturday.

The gala opening of the three-day exposition of the US business, jointly organised by the American-Bangladesh Economic forum (ABEF) and the US Embassy in Dhaka, was inaugurated by Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan.

The Prime Minister's special envoy, M Morshed Khan, Charge d'Affaires of the US embassy James P Nach and ABEF president Forrest Cookson also spoke at the opening function.

Thirty-eight US firms, having business in Bangladesh, are taking part in the trade show displaying their products.

The exhibition, being held for the third time since April 1992, aims at promoting economic cooperation between Bangladesh and the United States, exchanging information to stimulate greater understanding about each other's economic potentials and opportunities, and presenting the views of the US business community in Bangladesh to

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Khaleda shocked at Basil's death

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday condoled the sudden death of Basil Assad, son of Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad. Begum Zia in a message to the Syrian President said, "I am grieved to learn about the news of the sudden death of your beloved son in a car accident. Please accept my sincere condolences," reports UNB.

### Hasina to address rallies in Ctg today

CHITTAGONG, Jan 22: The Leader of the Opposition and president of the Awami League Sheikh Hasina will arrive here tomorrow on a two-day visit. She will address some election rallies in support of her party's mayoral candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury. The rallies are scheduled to be held separately at the EPZ crossing, Badamtoli crossing at Agrabad, the Alankar Cinema crossing, Muradpur bus stand and the Kalurghat Ishpani School maidan. Sheikh Hasina will place wreaths in the morning of January 24 at the monument near the Bangladesh Bank here on the occasion of the 1988 'mass killing day' and address a public meeting in the afternoon at the Laldighi Maidan.

### One injured in bomb blast

One Faruk al Hamid Sujon, 18, was seriously injured when a bomb was hurled at him at the Mazar Road of Mirpur near Gabtoli yesterday evening. He was rushed and admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, reports BSS.

### Pak Jamaat chief resigns

LAHORE, Jan 22: Leader of Pakistan's Islamic Fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami Party, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, resigned today, accepting responsibility for the party's humiliating defeat in last October's general elections. The Jamaat Central Executive Committee nominated its former general secretary, Chaudhury Rehmat Elahi, as acting amir, reports Reuters.

## Interview with RCC mayor candidate Jamaat's Siddik has 18-pt plan

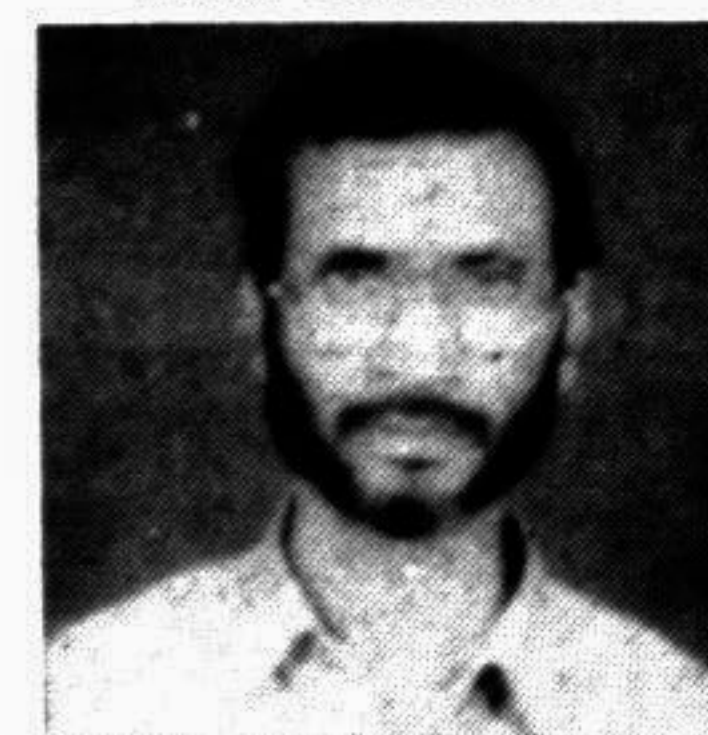
From Asiuzzaman

RAJSHAHI, Jan 22: Jamaat-e-Islami's mayoral candidate for the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) polls, Siddik Hussain, has said, if elected, he would implement an 18-point development programme for Rajshahi.

In an interview with The Daily Star, the Jamaat candidate said the budget for the RCC was not being spent properly.

Crores of taka have been misappropriated ahead of the election, Hussain, who was once a left student activist, said in a written interview.

His 18-point programme includes making the city administration free from corruption and terrorism, ensuring water supply, developing Shebbazar masjid into a metropolitan central mosque, rehabilitating the floating



Siddik Hussain

problems in this northern city. He said, the mastans have turned Rajshahi into a city of terrorists. It is a failure of the former mayor, he alleged.

He ruled out the possibility of any alliance with the ruling party in the upcoming polls.

"All are my friends but in the election I consider all my contenders," Siddik Hussain said, adding "Jamaat does not believe in any secret entente". The Jamaat had nominated him to try to establish the rule of Allah and the rule of honest people, he said.

He was very critical of the recent pledges made by the government about development projects saying "it might influence the election results".

He hoped the citizens of Rajshahi would choose an honest man for the mayoral post in the January 30 polls.



An election campaign stall is being dismantled in the city yesterday in conformity with the Election Commission's directives.

## Khaleda witnesses commercial use of green jute

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday witnessed a presentation of commercial application of green jute aimed at diversifying the industrial use of the environment friendly fibre, reports BSS.

Industries Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan apprised the Prime Minister of the success of research done at the Sylhet Pulp and Paper Mills (SPPM), Karnaphuli Paper Mills (KPM) and the Karnaphuli Rayon Mills (KRM) during the last jute season.

The presentation was held at the International Conference Centre here in the afternoon.

Khan explained the different aspects of paper, paper bags, carton boxes and rayon fibres made by the KPM and KRM from pulp of waste green jute processed at the SPPM.

The Industries Minister in-