



Inside Today

Article

Partnership
between Donors
and Beneficiaries

by Prof Muhammad
Yunus

Page 4

International

US move to smooth
relations with India,
Pakistan

List of Oscar winners

Page 5

Business

WB accused of violating
policy on energy
projects

GATT chief warns
against bid to limit
trade with South

Pages 6, 7

Feature

Science and
Technology

Wind energy: Prospects
and potentialities in
Bangladesh; and Planets
outside solar system!

Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Banner Bedecked City

Page 3

Dhaka expects biggest aid package next fiscal

By Inam Ahmed

The foreign aid commitment for the country during the fiscal 1994-95 has been projected at 2200 million US dollars, according to Finance Ministry sources.

This amount is almost 200 million dollars higher than the current year's original commitment. However, this year's revised projection is almost at par with the next year's amount.

On the other hand, aid disbursement for the next year has been projected at 1863 million dollars.

For the current fiscal, the original target for disbursement was 1861.4 million dollars. But it has been reduced to 1772.3 million dollars against the projected original commitment of 2024.3 million dol-

lars. The commitment was also revised to 2233.5 million dollars.

The commitment for the next year includes food aid of 211.6 million dollars, commodity aid of 400.4 million dollars and project aid of 1588 million dollars.

This year's revised commitment includes 84.3 million dollar food aid, 474 million dollar commodity aid and 1674 million dollar project aid. On the other hand, this year's projected disbursement includes 151.8 million dollar in food aid, 457 million dollar in commodity aid and 1163 million dollar in project aid.

According to figures of the Flow of External Resources into Bangladesh prepared by the Economic Relations

Division, next year's commitments and disbursement are projected to be the highest since independence.

In 1992-93, the commitment was 1274.5 million dollar and disbursement was 1675 million dollars. In 1991-92, the commitment stood at 1915.6 million and disbursement at 1611.5 million; in 1990-91, commitment 1370.3 million and disbursement 1732.6 million; in 1989-90 commitment 2175 million and disbursement 1809.6 million; in 1988-89 commitment 1668.5 million; in 1987-88 commitment 1529.8 million and disbursement 1640.4 million; in 1986-87 commitment 1603.3 million and dis-

See Page 12 Col 5

Scraping of Magura-2 results demanded

7-day AL deadline to EC

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League (AL) yesterday issued a seven-day ultimatum to the Election Commission to scrap the unofficial results of the by-election of Magura-2 constituency of the Jatiya Sangsad.

The AL alleged that the by-election held on March 20 was "massively rigged" by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

If the EC failed to cancel the by-election and announce a fresh date for the polls within the stipulated time, the AL would lay siege to the Bangladesh Secretariat on April 7 in demand of the resignation of the government.

The announcement came from Sheikh Hasina at a crowded press conference held at her official Manto Road

residence yesterday evening.

The AL chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament also told the newsmen that it would be difficult for her party to attend the sessions of Parliament where one of its members "owed his membership to a rigged election".

A two-page statement of the AL chief distributed among the members of the press said the people had already rejected the polls. She said the ruling party had hired armed hoodlums and identified killers to terrorise the voters prior to the polling.

She alleged that "armed men had resorted to assaulting AL activists, threatening the voters of the minority community not to cast their ballots

See Page 12 Col 1

BNP's victory shows people's consciousness: Salam

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder yesterday congratulated the people of Magura for electing the BNP candidate in the by-election to the vacant seat of the Jatiya Sangsad there, reports BSS.

In a press statement Talukder said "the victory of the BNP nominee was the demonstration of the consciousness of the people of Magura."

He expressed the hope that the leaders of the Awami League would accept the results of the by-election, reposing their confidence in democratic values. "We do not think that there is any cogent reason to disturb the normal day-to-day activities of the people and their peace and destroy public property in the name of unnecessary hartal," he added.

The BNP Secretary General further said that the machination of Awami League leaders to mislead people through their false and fabricated propaganda would end in failure this time too as in the past.

Dismissing the charge of the Awami League leaders that the BNP had set miscreants free from the jails and engaged them to perpetuate acts of terrorism, Talukder said in the by-election the local people had frustrated the initiative of the Awami League.

The BNP Secretary General said in the by-election the local people had frustrated the initiative of the Awami League.

See Page 12 Col 3

AL, JP call 6-hr countrywide hartal today

By Staff Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 22: Birth

rate at the Rohingya refugee

camp has increased alarm-

ingly due to polygamy and

negative attitude towards fam-

ily planning, reports UNB.

Some 14,574 babies were

born at the Rohingya camps in

last two years while 5,468 died

during the period, official

sources said here today.

But unofficial sources put

the number of newborn babies

at about 18,000.

There are at least 25 births

every day in 17 Rohingya

amps in Cox's Bazar and

Bandarban hill districts, offi-

cials said. But NGO sources

claimed that the number is

more than 37 a day.

According to sources, the

Rohingyas appeared to be

more interested in polygamy —

most of them would like to

have more than one wife and

more children.

The Rohingyas tended to be

reluctant in adopting family

planning methods and they

even avoid health workers and

motivators approaching them

to preach the methods.

Since the start of voluntary

repatriation, some 53,189

Rohingya refugees out of total

2.50 lakh have so far returned

to Myanmar.

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During the demonstration

at about 1 pm, a group of angry

students pelted stones at the

VC's office, shattering some

window panes.

However, police cordoned

off the office and brought the

situation under control within

a short time.

Later, at a rally in front of

the VC's office, the Chhatra

League leaders demanded the

resignation of the VC, accusing

the Awami League of shifting

the DUCSU polls date.

The elections are

scheduled for April 12.

— Star photo



US actress Holly Hunter and actor Tom Hanks pose with their Oscars in Los Angeles on March 21 during the 66th Annual Academy Awards ceremony after winning the best actress and best actor awards respectively.

— AFP photo



Spielberg wins Oscar for 'Schindler's List'

LOS ANGELES, Mar 22: After 20 years of making Hollywood's biggest hits, Steven Spielberg finally got an Oscar, thanks to Oskar, reports AP.

"I actually have friends who have won this before, and I swear I have never held one before. This is the first time I've had one of these in my hands," he said after winning the best directing trophy for "Schindler's List," his stark portrait of heroism during the Holocaust.

Spielberg, 46, had never won an Oscar for directing though he was nominated for

List of Winners Page 5

"Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "E.T. — the Extra-Terrestrial." He received an honorary Oscar in 1987.

"Schindler's List" chronicles German businessman Oscar Schindler's efforts to rescue Jews from Nazi concentration camps during World War II by employing them in a factory.

At a running time of three hours and filmed mostly in black and white, the movie was never expected to be a commercial hit. But Universal Pictures nonetheless said it

See Page 12 Col 6

I to die, 10 jailed for killing poura commissioner

MYMENSINGH, Mar 22: A

32-year-old man was awarded

death penalty and 10 others

were sentenced to 10 years

rigorous imprisonment today

for killing a poura (municipal) commissioner of Muktagacha in 1988, reports UNB.

The District and Sessions Judge, Nazrul Islam Khan, in his verdict also fined the 10 convicted accused Tk 5,000 each, in