

**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
 Starting today, and in keeping with our tradition of serving our readers better, The Daily Star is pleased to announce the launching of yet another new feature page titled "TRAVEL & TOURISM".

We trust this page, to be published once a week, will help promote tourism and air travel to and from Bangladesh and also help to inform visitors and air travellers.

The Daily Star... we choose to lead

**Inside Today**

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**Metropolitan**

Dhaka Day by Day



Burden of Fatherhood  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Ferry services disrupted**

MANIKGANJ, Dec. 3: Ferry services in Aricha-Nagarbari and Aricha-Daulatdia routes were disrupted for more than five hours early today as dense fog blanketed the waterways.

**Government of the People's  
 Republic of Bangladesh  
 National Board of Revenue**

Dhaka

**NOTICE**

The date for advance income tax payment for the 2nd quarter of the current financial year is December 15, 1994.

The advance income tax payable by the concerned taxpayer is to be paid through I. T. Form No. I. T. 31 (B)\*(amended) challan.

The taxpayers should pay the advance tax filling in the said challan form as usual by replacing the figure "74 (1)" with the figure "64" in as many places as it occurs in the form.

It may be mentioned that the financial limit of total income for payment of advance income tax for all classes of assessee is now Taka 1,00,000/-.

All assessee concerned are requested to pay their advance income tax for the 2nd quarter of the current financial year relevant to the assessment year 1995-96 under this system by December 15, 1994. Simple interest @ 10% per annum will be leviable if the advance income tax is not paid or paid at a lesser amount than due.

National Board of Revenue

Child marriage still common in Bangladesh, says Nafis Sadik

## 20000 mothers die in labour every yr : PM

The Prime Minister yesterday asked all, particularly health and family planning workers, to work with dedication to make the safe motherhood movement a success preventing childbirth casualties, reports UNB.

"Let our pledge for today be 'No more unwanted deaths for motherhood,'" Begum Khaleda Zia said expressing concern at the high rate of maternal mortality rate in the country and in the world at large.

In Bangladesh, she said, while inaugurating a two-day national conference on 'Safe Motherhood', nearly 20,000 mothers die each year while giving birth and many others escape death but suffer from serious and permanent ailments.

The Prime Minister stressed preventive measures alongside curative ones for ensuring safe motherhood.

"We can achieve success in this regard only through combined private and public sector initiatives and united efforts of the health and social welfare

workers," she said, adding: "Her government has placed utmost emphasis on women's education for ensuring overall development of women community."

To reduce the maternal mortality rate, she told the function at the International Conference Centre, her government has taken numerous steps, including removal of social discrimination against women, targeted programmes for mother and child health and strengthening family planning programmes.

She said for implementation of these measures, some 28,000 female workers at the grassroots level were taking family welfare services to the doorsteps of mothers.

Begum Zia said maternal mortality rate showed less in those developing countries where female education is more widespread. Educated mothers are more concerned about their own health and health of their children, she added.

Referring to the first inter-

national conference on the issue, held in Nairobi in 1987, Begum Zia said this conference raised awareness about maternal mortality worldwide.

"The government alone cannot cater to this huge disabled population," she said calling upon the voluntary organisations, donor agencies and affluent people to come forward and work side by side with the government for greater welfare of the disabled.

Citing World Health Organisation (WHO) findings, the Prime Minister said nearly 10

### Help the disabled, urges Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said united efforts can transform the country's disabled population into self-reliant and productive citizens, reports UNB.

"The government alone cannot cater to this huge disabled population," she said calling upon the voluntary organisations, donor agencies and affluent people to come forward and work side by side with the government for greater welfare of the disabled.

Citing World Health Organisation (WHO) findings, the Prime Minister said nearly 10

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### UNFPA chief for SAARC meet on family planning

By Staff Correspondent

Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Dr Nafis Sadik has said the SAARC countries should hold a conference to achieve the global goals set for family planning and other social sectors in the region.

Dr Nafis, who is now in the city on a three-day official visit, told a press conference she would propose to Chairperson

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia looking at work done by a disabled boy at the handicraft exhibition held at Osmany Memorial Hall in the city on the occasion of the International Day of the Disabled yesterday. —PID photo

### CMM dismisses petition against Prime Minister

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) yesterday dismissed a petition accusing Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia of making 'provocative remarks' that might lead to riot and endanger lives of opposition leaders and workers, reports UNB.

Advocate Qamrul Islam, Joint Secretary of the Awami League, Dhaka City committee, filed the complaint with the CMM's court yesterday.

KS Nabi, Bar at Law, Ramzan Ali and MA Mannan

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### Opposition MPs meet tomorrow to finalise date for resignation

By Staff Correspondent

The leaders of the parliamentary opposition will meet tomorrow evening to finalise a date for submitting resignation from the Jatiya Sangsad (JS)

The date is likely to be announced simultaneously from separate rallies of the Awami League (AL), Jatiya Party (JP) and Jamaat-e-Islami in the city on December 6, chief Whip of

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### Lankan FM due today

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar arrives in Dhaka today on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

It will be the first tour by a Sri Lankan minister to Bangladesh following the installation of the new government in Colombo.

During his stay here Kadirgamar will call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

He will also meet leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina.

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## FBCCI chief blames govt for scuttling proposed meeting

By Staff Correspondent

dialogues had already taken place."

The FBCCI initiative for holding a meeting with the



Salman F. Rahman

government and the opposition political parties has been frustrated, he said, since a section of the national leadership has declined to participate in the proposed meeting.

"We regret we could not apprise the national political leadership of the consequences of the polarised politics on the national economy," Salman lamented.

The objective of the proposed meeting was to seek relief for the national economy from the present political crisis. It is unfortunate that the efforts of the FBCCI were undone at the altar of partisan politics."

Responding to a question, he said he holds the ruling party responsible for the fall-

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### BNP objected to change in format for talks: Islam

Star Report

The ruling BNP turned down the offer to participate in the FBCCI-proposed meeting because the federation had abruptly changed the original format from that of an appraisal meeting to one for tripartite talks, a senior cabinet minister said yesterday.

The FBCCI changed the format, as detailed in its initial letter, from an 'appraisal' meeting to a tripartite discussion in a subsequent letter.

Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam told The Daily Star when contacted over telephone last night.

The ruling party took exception to the alteration in the format of the meeting because it changed the entire spirit and purpose of the proposed meeting.

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### Exporters seek exemption from hartals

By Staff Correspondent

The Exporters Association of Bangladesh yesterday urged the political parties to exempt the export-oriented industrial units from the purview of hartals.

The request came ahead of the Opposition called 48-hour hartal across the country on December 7 and 8.

Expressing concern over frequent hartals and the existing political instability, the association said in a statement production in the export-oriented industries had declined sharply causing huge losses.

Terming November and December most crucial months for the exporters, the statement said, the exporters would have to send goods by air at their own expenses if the shipment schedule failed. Otherwise, goods worth crores of taka would be stockpiled.

Frequent hartals and sieges were not only hampering shipments of goods but were also discouraging the foreign buyers and investors in the country, said the association.

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## MIGA to promote foreign investment in Bangladesh

By S Y Bakht

tee officer from the Washington headquarters of MIGA, which provides political risk insurance to private companies investing in developing countries, he said.

Bangladesh has been a founding member of MIGA since 1988 and the agency is also involved in the KAFCO project, where it has insured the investments of two Japanese companies, Marubeni and Chiyoda, to the tune of 52 million US dollars, he said.

"We would like to do more business here."

In an interview with The Daily Star, Yusuf also talked about MIGA's objective and the procedures that the agency follows to provide non-commercial risk coverage for private investments in a member country.

The sole purpose of MIGA, the newest member of the World Bank group, is to increase the flow of FDI into de-

veloping countries, by providing political risk insurance to the investing private companies, he said.

Foreign investors may have concern for high non-commercial risks in developing countries, he explained, and that is where MIGA comes in to allay the fears of the investors by covering that risk factor.

MIGA was set up to fill in the void in the non-commercial risk insurance sector. The is covered only by large international insurance companies like AIG of the US and Lloyds of London and national investment insurance agencies like MITI of Japan and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation of the US, he said.

With 126 members, 19 from the industrial countries and 107 from the developing ones, the MIGA can provide insurance coverage — against any actions of the governments

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Many countries in this part of the world lost the export market due to political instability. This helped Bangladesh enter the export market, the statement said adding the country itself was now going to have the same fate because of hartals.

The political parties should come forward to resolve the crisis of the export-oriented industries, said the association.

The exporters said political stability is essential to help the growth of the export-oriented industries.

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**Opposition wins mayor polls in Taiwan**

TAIPEI, Dec. 3: Taiwan's Nationalist Party suffered a serious setback to its 45-year rule today, as the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) handily won the first multi-party election of Taipei mayor, reports AFP.

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**GRAND OPENING**

TODAY

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