



Despite abundant supply of Hilsa in the city markets the prices of this delicious fish remain high. — Star photo

Tk 151cr KCC budget announced

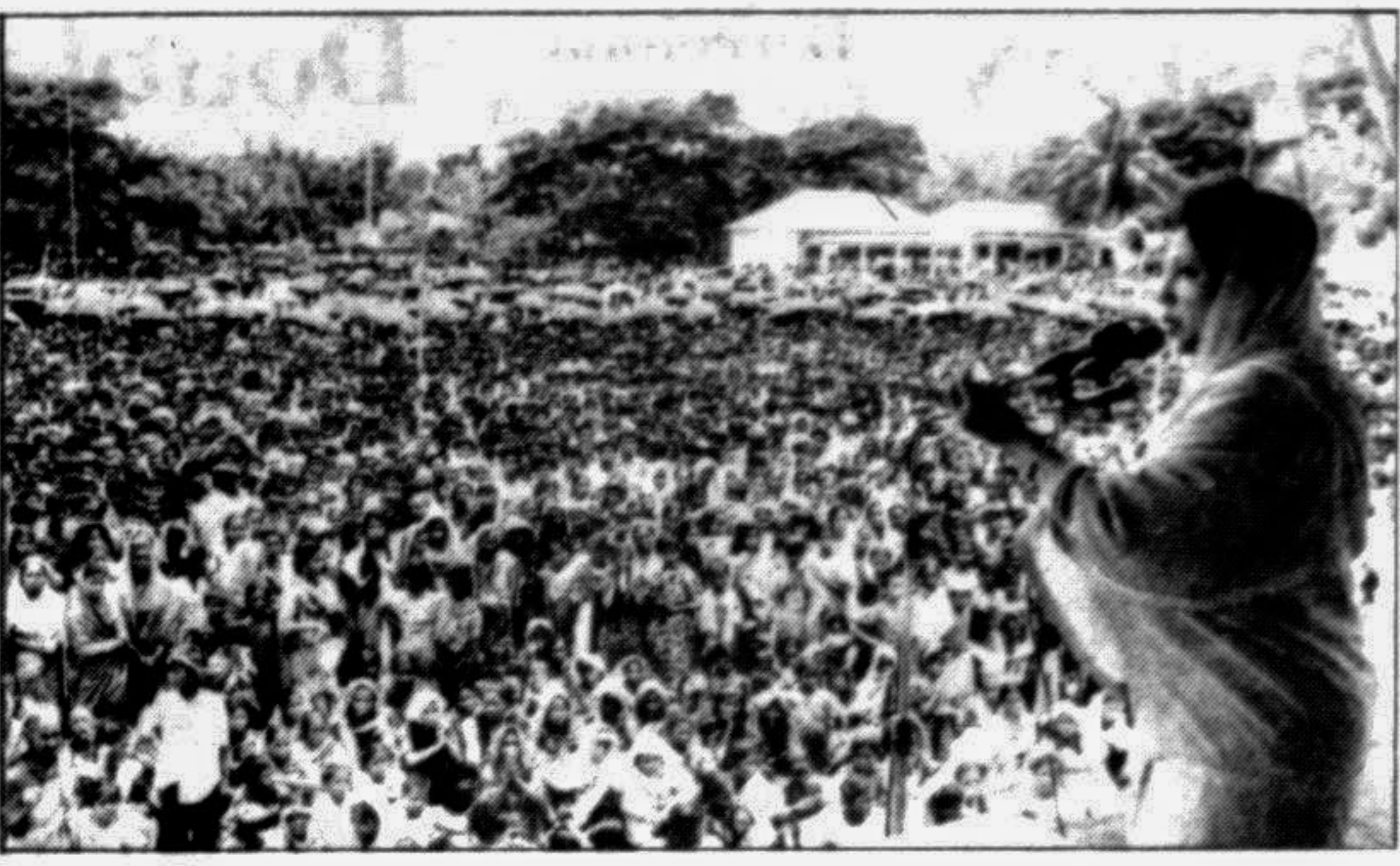
From Our Correspondent
KHULNA, June 11: The Mayor of the Khulna City Corporation, Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, today announced a hundred and fifty-one crore taka budget for the 1995-96 fiscal year. No new taxes have been imposed.
In the proposed budget, Tk 96.94 crore has been shown as government grant. Over Tk 28.90 crore will come from the KCC's own sources and the rest Tk 25.89 crore from special project grant.
A grant of ten crore taka from the Prime Minister's special fund has been shown in the budget.
Tk 20.89 crore has been earmarked for development of drainage and sanitation of slum areas of the city with the financial support of the Asian Development Bank.
Tk 48 crore has been proposed to be spent for various development work and Tk 12.23 crore for solving the water crisis in the city.

Revision petition on behalf of Taslima rejected

The District and Sessions Judge Dhaka, Mohammad Abdul Salam, yesterday summarily rejected a revisional petition on behalf of controversial writer Taslima Nasrin, reports UNB.
The petition was filed before the court yesterday against the order of acceptance of the government's sanction letter under section 188 of the CrPC, necessary for prosecuting Taslima for an offence committed outside the country.
Rejecting the petition, the judge observed that there was no power of attorney nor any authorisation from Taslima to file this revisional case. There was no illegality in the lower court's order either, he added.
Earlier, on May 20, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, A K M Kamaluddin found the sanction letter filed by the government to prosecute Taslima valid.
Public Prosecutor Abdur Razzaque Khan appeared for the State while Sara Hossain and Zahurul Islam stood for the accused.

Storm

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Normal life in the port city as well as in Cox's Bazar and outlying areas were disrupted due to intermittent rainfall and gusty wind.
It is also learnt that communications between Cox's Bazar and Moheshkhali and Kutubdia and between Teknaf and St. Martin's island were affected.
News agency reports mentioned that Haldia, Rezu and Matamuhori rivers crossed their respective danger levels.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a huge public meeting at the Kuliarchar college ground in Kishoreganj district yesterday. — PID photo

BNP will make country self-reliant: Khaleda

KATIADI (Kishoreganj), June 11: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said that her government will continue the present development programmes for the welfare of the people despite the opposition's "anti-development activities," reports UNB.
Addressing a public meeting at Gachhihata College ground in the afternoon, she said the opposition was trying to obstruct the various development works through hartal and demonstration.
Implementation of the development programme by the BNP government in last four years was much more than what was done in the past 20 years, the Prime Minister told the public meeting amid heavy rains.
In an oblique reference to the Awami League, Begum Zia said how the party which could not give food and clothes to seven crore people would take the responsibility of 12 crore people.
In this context, she alleged that the post-independent government had looted relief goods, keeping people without food and clothes.
"BNP will reach the fruits of independence to the common people... BNP will make the country self-reliant," she said.
Responding to a local demand, the Prime Minister assured that steps would be taken to construct a bridge between Katiadi in Kishoreganj and Monohardi in Narsinghdi.

Visits Thakurgaon today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia leaves Dhaka today for Thakurgaon where she will address a public meeting at the Hariপুর Jadurani High School ground in the afternoon, reports UNB.
She will also apprise herself of the progress of primary and mass education activities of the district.
Later on the day, Begum Zia will fly to Dinajpur and address a workers' meeting there. She will stay overnight at Dinajpur.
She will inaugurate the National Tree Plantation Campaign '95 at 10:30 am at Rajapur in Dinajpur tomorrow and distribute saplings among the school students.
Begum Zia will distribute the Prime Minister's Award on Tree Plantation '93 and certificates.
Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain will preside over the function.
After the function in Dinajpur, Begum Zia will leave for Gaibandha district and address a public meeting at Majumderhat in Sundarganj thana.
The Prime Minister will return to the capital tomorrow evening.

CHT truce

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problems could be resolved," an official said quoting the letter signed by the PCJSS spokesman Ushaton Talukder.
The proposed talks will be held on the basis of PCJSS's five-point draft proposal. The PCJSS leaders said demanding release of its 10 activists by June 30.
enough? What else remains to be done?
SFR: I think the financial sector reform programme has done very well in certain areas and in certain others it has not really been able to make a dent. In the areas in which it has done well is the restoration of financial discipline in both the public and private sector banks. But in the areas of actually developing expertise and technology of financial management under the present international order, that has not happened. We had hoped that the financial sector reforms would have addressed this aspect of modernisation.
DS: In brief, what, in your opinion, are the specific problems in the agriculture, industrial and financial sectors?
SFR: This is too broad a question.
DS: But would you talk about some of the problems specially in the industrial and financial sectors?
SFR: The biggest problem that we are now facing in the industrial sector is in the area of energy— power, gas and petroleum. The entire energy sector is going to be a major obstacle to industrialisation, if we cannot resolve the problems. Then we also have other infrastructural problems. The most serious problem, both in the industrial and the financial sectors, is in the legal area. We desperately need legal reforms and we need it very, very fast. Our entire legal system has to be overhauled. Our laws are outdated and our legal system is also outdated.
Then, another area is telecommunications. You know, there is an information technology explosion taking place in the world. Our laws and our policies are keeping us completely shut out from what is happening in the world as regards information technology. This is a major handicap both in the financial as well as the industrial sectors.
DS: Has the ongoing financial sector reforms gone far

Present JS has no locus standi to pass budget: AL

By Staff Correspondent
Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman said yesterday that the present Jatiya Sangsad has no locus standi to pass any budget since it had lost legitimacy following the resignation of the Opposition MPs.
At a public meeting at Uttar Khan in the city, Zillur said his party was struggling to free the country from the 'corrupt rulers of the BNP' and to restore the people's rights to vote and food. To this end, he added they were demanding a non-party caretaker administration to conduct the next general elections. "We will compel the BNP government to resign," he said.
Chaired by Khandakar Tarif, the rally was also addressed by Advocate Shahra Khatun and the publisher of the daily Bangladesh Patrika, Zakaria Khan.

Bus stand

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gar and Malibagh crossings, disrupting traffic movement for over two hours from 11 am.
The owners of the inter-city luxury coaches, who had been using the main thoroughfare in the busy Fakirerpool area as their stand, were earlier served with eviction notices by the DCC, said Motijheel police.
When contacted last night, police sources said they got cooperation from vehicle owners, who had earlier closed their booking counters to comply with the DCC's notice.
"However, we found a number of buses standing on roads and drove those to Rajbargh police line ground. From there, the vehicles were later driven to an open space beside the Biswa Road near Kamapur Railway Station," said a police official.

IOR

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meeting scheduled to be held in March, 1996.
Against the backdrop of the Mauritius meeting, a three-day second track meeting began in Perth, Australia, yesterday. Some 28 countries are attending the meeting under the banner of International Fora on Indian Ocean Rim. Bangladesh has nominated its minister at the Australian High Commission to attend as observer.
President of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) Salman F Rahman is also likely to attend the meeting, although not as a government nominee.
Responding to a question the Foreign Ministry spokesman said that several countries of the Indian Ocean region like Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iran and Malaysia have not been invited to the meeting.
Replying to another question, he said that sub-regional organisations like the SAARC, GCC and ASEAN have also not been consulted about the IOR. He, however, added that launching of IOR would not diminish the role of the sub-regional organisations but stressed the need for involving all the Indian Ocean Rim countries in any such move to make it a success.

Japanese aid

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eration between Dhaka and Tokyo on both bilateral and international issues.
The meeting mainly focused on economic cooperation, particularly investment in Bangladesh and expansion of bilateral trade.
Japan, the largest donor to Bangladesh, is keen to play more active role in development activities of Bangladesh. Hakuo said in the meeting.
He also showed his country's keen interest in extending aid to other SAARC countries and ASEAN nations.
Mostafiz thanked the Japanese Vice-Minister for the continued support of his country to the welfare of Bangladesh.
The Foreign Minister renewed Bangladesh's support to Japan's move for becoming a permanent member of the Security Council.
Hakuo, who arrived here Saturday night on a three-day visit, is leading a four-member delegation.

The Midnight File

Rally against trial of Sharif batoncharged: 20 injured

LAHORE, June 11: At least 20 people including four reporters were injured as police here batoncharged opposition workers protesting against the trial of former premier Nawaz Sharif, police and witnesses said. Some 50 people including about a dozen women forcing their way into the heavily guarded sprawling court complex, chanting slogans against the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the judiciary, reports AFP.

India does not have N-bomb: Rao

PARIS, June 11: India does not have a nuclear bomb although it has all the resources to build one. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao says in an interview to be published in France tomorrow. "The Pakistanis have the atomic bomb but we don't have it," he told the conservative daily Le Figaro at the start of a four-day official visit to France, reports AFP.

Data bank

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ing to women issues.
The Tk 14 crore '22 lakh NDI' project can provide a vast range of information. It would be very useful for business and financial institutions and an entrepreneur can easily do marketing research with data provided by NDB, said Bhuiyan.
"What would have cost say Taka 10 lakh to do alone and take several years will cost only about Taka 1000 and the information would be available instantaneously to an entrepreneur."
NDB will also provide greater scope for attracting international business. Since the cost of data entry will be much lower than in most countries many overseas companies will want to use NDB for their own data entry which, in turn will financially benefit Bangladesh. Thus it will also attract foreign investment, he said.

Justice Rouf

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the simultaneous holding of the two constitutional posts of the Chief Election Commissioner and a judge of the High Court by Justice Rouf.
The second writ was filed by Advocate Mohsin, Rashid challenging the authority under which Justice Rouf was holding the post of a judge of the High Court Division.
The first writ came up for hearing yesterday before Justice Habibur Rahman Khan and Justice MM Ruhul Amin.
Pleading on behalf of the government, Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandaker cited the 11th Amendment to the Constitution and said that holding of the two posts by Justice Rouf was not a violation of the Constitution.
He also mentioned that the two earlier writs had both become infructuous.
The appointment of Justice Rouf as the Chief Election Commissioner, in December 1990, and his simultaneous holding of the post of a High Court judge had been ratified and protected by the amendment. Wadud Khandaker argued.

Hydrocarbon

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spective after months of negotiations.
The government had earlier signed agreements with the two companies for exploration of gas and oil in the Bay of Bengal — Block-16 — last year and with the Occidental of the USA for exploration in Sylhet region.
The PSC for Block-15 has been formulated in line with the PSC for Block-16 submitted by the same companies.
On November 15 last the foreign companies initiated the PSC for Block-15 which covers the Semutang gas field. This unutilised gas field has a reserve of about 100 billion cubic feet of gas and the foreign companies propose to supply gas to the national grid through the Chittagong-Bakhrabad line by developing the reserve.

Ashura

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In the capital, the day was prominently featured by traditional 'Tazia' processions brought out from different parts of the city. Thousands of mourners took part in the processions, pounding their chests and groaning 'Hai Hossain, Hai Hossain.'
Various social and religious organisations held Quran Khwani, Milad Mahfils and seminars to mark the day. A week-long fair began Saturday at Azampur in the city.
The day was a public holiday.
Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television put up special programmes while newspapers published articles highlighting the significance of the day.
The main procession under the banner 'Karbalar Shaheedander Shoke Matom Michhil' was brought out from Hussani Dalan Imambara at 10:30 am with several thousand mourners, including children, participating in it.
The processionists marched through Bakshi Bazar, Lalbag, Azampur, New Market and dispersed at Dhanmandi Lake in the afternoon.
Dewanbag Darbar Sharif organised a grand 'Jaiso' at Modanpur in Narayanganj thana at 10 am to mark the holy Ashura. Islamic thinkers and scholars spoke highlighting the significance of the day.

9 killed, 15 injured in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent
At least nine persons were killed and 15 injured in road accidents in the country Saturday and yesterday.
Our correspondent in Gaibandha says, five people were killed on the spot while three others sustained serious injuries when a Rangpur-bound loaded truck (Bogra Ta 3733) dashed a parked vehicle at Moheshpur on Bogra-Rangpur highway yesterday morning.
The injured persons were admitted to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital in critical condition.
UNB adds: Two people were killed in two separate road accidents on Dhaka-Aricha and Nabinagar-Kaliakayr roads in Savar thana yesterday.
Witnesses said a young boy, Manik Mia, was crushed under the wheels of a running truck at the Hemayetpur bus stand on Dhaka-Aricha road in the afternoon.
In another accident, an unidentified man aged about 35 died on the spot when a truck knocked him down on Savar-Kaliakayr road near Baropara bus stand yesterday evening.
The bodies were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospi-

SAARC TUs oppose

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sovereignty stood threatened as foreign debts and aids registered a sharp rise and poverty situation further worsened.
The worst and direct victims of the changed scenario are the working class faced with loss of job, mounting unemployment and increased
Ershad accused
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magistrates in Dhaka.
Last week the officers of the Criminal Investigation Department interrogated Ershad inside the Dhaka Central Jail regarding his role in the murder of Gen Manzur. Ershad was the chief of Army Staff when the incident took place.
Three retired military officials, namely, Maj Gen M A Latif, Lt Col Shamsur Rahman and Major Kazi Emdadul Haq, were arrested by the police following the filing of a first information report (FIR) by Manzur's elder brother Abul Mansoor, with Panchlaish thana of Chittagong on March 1 last, nearly 14 years after the death of the general, believed to have led the unsuccessful coup bid.
Latif, Shams and Emdad are now being detained in the Comilla, Tangail and Dhaka jails. All three made judicial statements admitting their involvement in the alleged crime. However, at later stages, all made applications before the court seeking to retract their statements, recorded by magistrates.
All three were refused bail by the courts. They were produced before the CMM, Chittagong, on June 1 during the hearing of the case.
The CID is likely to file formal charges against all the accused soon.

'Business plan' to start CSE operation soon

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, June 11: A 'business plan' will be formulated to start operation of the country's second stock exchange in Chittagong.
The decision was taken at a meeting of the executive committee of the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) held here today with Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury MP, chairman of the CSE, in the chair.
A director of the CSE has been assigned to prepare the 'business plan'. He has been asked to submit the plan within 15 days.

Strategy for higher growth rate a must

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have a clear-cut strategy on how to achieve a much higher growth rate than what we have been able to do. That is, I think, priority number one.
DS: What are your views on the on-going economic reform programme? Do you think the thrust of the reforms are in the right direction? Is the pace of the reforms appropriate?
SFR: I think that the thrust of the reforms are definitely in the right direction and I feel very strongly that the reforms are needed for the high growth rate that we are talking about. However, what we have always been saying is that reforms are part of a total package. If you implement part of the package and you don't implement another part of it, the reforms and its results become distorted. And that is happening in our industry. We had said that we needed an export-led growth and so we needed to place emphasis on export, which we have done. But, at the same time, before we can liberalise our domestic market, we need to strengthen our industrial or manufacturing base. And the kind of package which is needed to strengthen that base, the enabling environment which is needed, that is not being created. So, that distorts the whole reform process.
DS: So, you think the pace of the reforms should be expedited?
SFR: Oh yes, absolutely. The pace must be expedited, but as part of a total package. Not in the isolated manner in which it is being implemented.
DS: What impact did the reforms have on the performance of the overall economy? Do you have any alternative suggestions?
SFR: The impact has been tremendous in that we have never had this kind of macro level stability ever in our history. And I think that is the direct result of the economic reform process. You see, here the most important thing