


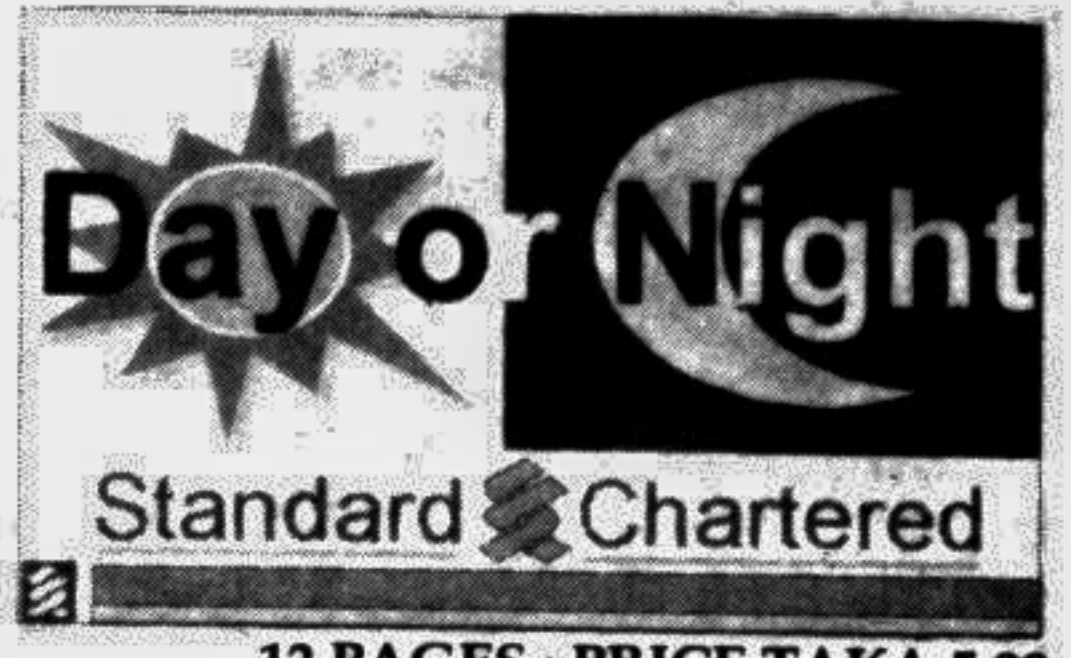
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The Daily Star



Standard Chartered

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Inside Today

Article

Beijing Confce: The Struggle for Equality Enters a New Phase

Column: On the Record by Shah A M S Kibria Page 4

Focus

Contributions of the elders to the society should be recognised; The story of Hamida; and The rise of anti-immigrant sentiment in the US Page 5

International

NATO sorts out snags over UN role in Bosnian peace bid

N-deal with Iran suspended, not cancelled: Qian Page 8

Business

Come out meaningfully to resolve economic problems, LDCs urge global community

Advani plays down importance of foreign investment Pages 6, 7

STOCK MARKET

DSE price index	636.70 (-0.91%)
Market capitalization	\$2.91 billion
Transactions in volume	244706
Transactions in value	Tk 31.05 million

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



City's Problem of Rendezvous Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Activities at Ctg Port hampered

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: Delivery of goods to and from Chittagong Port remained suspended during the two-day transport strike making congestion at the port acute, port officials said today.

DU vacation begins today

Dhaka University will remain closed from today to October 8 for autumn vacation and Durga and Lakshmi puja festivals. Classes of the university will resume on October 9, officials said. The university offices, including central library, will be closed on October 3 and 8, reports UNB.

15-yr Plan to be placed before NEC today PPP envisages \$ 1250 per capita income by 2010

By Rashed Mahmud Titumir

The 15-year Participatory Perspective Plan (PPP) envisages a per capita income of 1,250 US dollars and a double-digit growth rate by the year 2010.

The National Economic Council (NEC) is expected to approve the final draft of the plan (1995-2010) today, an authoritative source said.

The NEC, headed by the Prime Minister, is expected to instruct the Planning Commission (PC) to go ahead with the preparation of Local Level Plans for the remaining districts.

The NEC may approve the PPP, subject to the observations as may be made in the NEC and direct the PC to make immediate arrangements for the publication of the final version," said the source, preferring anonymity, last night.

Earlier, the presentation of the PPP before the NEC was shifted from August 30, due to the Prime Minister's preoccupation with the Beijing conference on Women.

At the end of 1993, the present government, under the initiative of State Minister for Planning Dr A Moyeen Khan, had decided not to formulate a fifth five-year plan and instead decided to go for the perspective plan.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia initiated the participatory consultations in framing the new PPP at the district level in Thakurgaon on April 5 last year. Later, the PPP was discussed at national and local levels to incorporate views of the concerned ministers, relevant professionals, economists, social scientists, members of Parliament, representatives of various chambers of commerce and industries and the donor community.

Starting with the socio-economic agenda in the first chapter, the 6-part PPP document covers the policy framework and resource allocations in the second, annotates local-level participation

See Page 12 Col 3

Khaleda visits flood-hit areas

DINAJPUR, Sept 30: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today visited the flood-hit areas of Dinajpur and Rangpur districts and assured the affected people of all possible help to enable them to cope with the situation, reports UNB.

She told the flood victims to face the calamity with courage and fortitude, and asked the local administration to provide all assistance to help them recoup themselves for the losses.

Begum Zia first dropped at Dinajpur circuit house, where the Deputy Commissioners of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh briefed her on the latest flood situation of their respective districts.

Dinajpur town and its adjoining areas were inundated following torrential rain and onrush of water from the swelling Atrai, Someswari and Kanchan rivers.

See Page 12 Col 1

Ten more deaths reported Flood situation in 16 N-dists worsens

By Staff Correspondent

At least 10 people were killed yesterday as rain and onrush of waters from upper reaches in India aggravated the flood situation in 16 northern districts.

Eight people were killed in house collapse, seven in Chapainawabganj and one in Gaibandha. A young man drowned in Gobindaganj in Gaibandha and a 13-year old boy was washed away by flood waters in Sonatola thana in Bogra, according to reports reaching the capital.

The major rivers — Padma and Jamuna — and their tributaries further swelled yesterday while at least 15 lakh people were marooned by the season's third flooding.

The affected districts are Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Syedpur, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rajshahi, Noagaon, Natore, Chapainawabganj, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Bogra and Pabna.

Dinajpur bore the brunt of the current flooding where unofficial estimate earlier put the death toll at 25. Rescue operations by BDR are being hampered due to strong currents.

The Dhaka-Dinajpur high-way has gone under water at Katakhal in Gaibandha. The road link may be snapped any moment, the reports said.

Pabna town has gone under water.

See Page 12 Col 7

Taka devalued against US dollar again

In just three weeks of a minor devaluation, the Taka depreciated further against the US dollar by 25 paisa, reports UNB.

A Bangladesh Bank announcement yesterday argued that the 'adjustment', effective from today, was made keeping in view the need to maintain competitiveness of the country's exports, apart from the pressure to go by the recent changes in the international exchange market.

To give a boost to the export trade, the Bangladesh Bank also gave a big raise to the foreign exchange retention quota for exporters — to 40 per cent from 25 per cent of the repatriated FOB (Freight on Board) export value.

However, for items with low domestic value addition like readymade garments and

See Page 12 Col 7



Breathless final moments of the 2000-metre race in the 20th National Rowing Championship held in the river Buriganga yesterday. (See story on page 11) — Star photo

Pvt banks unwilling to bail out jute traders

By Rafiq Hasan

The Private Commercial Banks are refusing to implement the government decision of waiving about Tk 50 crore interest and re-scheduling bank liabilities of raw jute traders and exporters facing financial difficulties.

"We cannot proceed according to the Ministry of Finance circular as long as we do not get any commitment that the losses to be incurred due to waiver of interest would be compensated by the government," said the managing director of a private commercial bank.

Sources said the Finance Ministry, in a circular on March 23 this year, had asked the banks concerned to waive the interest and re-schedule the liabilities of raw jute traders and exporters affected due to various reasons during the period 1984-85 to 1988-89.

It is estimated that the banks, both private and nationalised, will incur loss of about Tk 190 crore for implementing the decision. Of the amount, the share of three private banks — Uttara, Pubali and IFIC — is about Tk 50 crore, official sources said.

The decision of waiving interest and re-scheduling liabilities of distressed jute traders and exporters was taken at a meeting between the representatives of banks concerned and high officials of the Finance Ministry.

According to the decision, 50 per cent of normal interest and 100 per cent of penal interest of the distressed jute traders would be waived and the balance interest together with principal amount would be kept in a segregated account.

See Page 12 Col 8

FBCCI warns of 'real danger' due to political crisis

By Staff Correspondent

The Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday expressed "grave concern" over the political crisis and warned of "real danger" unless remedial steps are taken immediately.

The reaction from the country's apex business body came two days after the

See Page 12 Col 2

\$ 26.7m ADB loan for edn project

MANILA, Sept 30: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said here today it had approved a 26.7 million dollar loan for an education project in Bangladesh, reports AFP.

The loan is expected to help some 2.5 million young adults, particularly women, an ADB statement said.

Non-stop transport strike from Oct 29 threatened

By Staff Correspondent

Road transport owners have threatened to go for an indefinite strike from October 29 unless the government meets their 12-point demand by October 28.

A two-day transport strike called to press home the demands badly disrupted road communication across the country for the second day yesterday.

The decision of indefinite strike was taken at a joint meeting of the Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity (BSPS), which called the two-day strike, and Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation (BSPSF) at the BSPS office at BRTC Bhaban in the city yesterday.

The second day of the strike, called by one of the two factions of BSPS, led by ruling party MP Mirza Abbas, passed off peacefully, barring a few bomb explosions at the Sayedabad bus terminal in the city in the evening.

The other faction of BSPS has also planned a 48-hour transport strike on October 14 and 15.

Road communication within and between the districts was badly affected as

See Page 12 Col 4

'Opposition's statements provocative'

The BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Co-operatives Minister, Abdus Salam Talukdar, criticised the "irresponsible and provocative" statements made by some opposition leaders and their call for unnecessary hartals to disrupt normal life in the country, reports BSS.

In a lengthy statement issued here last night, Talukdar expressed his hope that the conscious people of the country would hold trial of the persons responsible for such irresponsible utterances.

See Page 12 Col 3

Rebels give up control of Hazratbal Mosque

SRINAGAR, Sept 30: Muslim militants today gave up control of Kashmir's holiest mosque after a day of tension and fears of a bloody showdown with a rival armed group, reports AFP.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), led by Sahbir Siddiqi said it was not controlling the Hazratbal Mosque on Srinagar's outskirts, but Muslim sources said its guerrillas were massed in the shrine's vicinity.

"We are not present in-

AL leaders' duty during hartal

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday charged her party leaders with responsibilities to make the planned 48-hour hartal in six divisional headquarters October 7-8 a success.

According to a party press release, Abdur Razzak, Pullin Dey, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser and M A Mannan will work for Chittagong, Abdus Samad Azad, Salaudun Yusuf and Begum Munnujan Sufian for Khulna, Tofael Ahmed, Prof Abu Sayeed and Abdul Mannan for Rajshahi, Mohammad Nasim, Shudhansu Shekhar Halder, Abul Hasnat Abdullah and K M Jahangir for Barisal and Amir Hossain Amu, Dewan Farid Gazi, Azizur Rahman and Sultan Md Mansur Ahmed for Sylhet.

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Farmers gherao Jhenidah DC office

JHENIDAH, Sept 30: Some 10,000 farmers gheraoed DC office here today demanding subsidised ration for the rural poor, and work and land for the landless, reports UNB.

The demonstrators also demanded fertiliser at Tk 2 per kg against the current price Tk 5, diesel at Tk 7 per litre instead of Tk 13, slash in the prices of insecticides by 50 per cent and end to corruption in land survey.

The farmers laid siege to

See Page 12 Col 6

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SAVINGS ACCOUNT

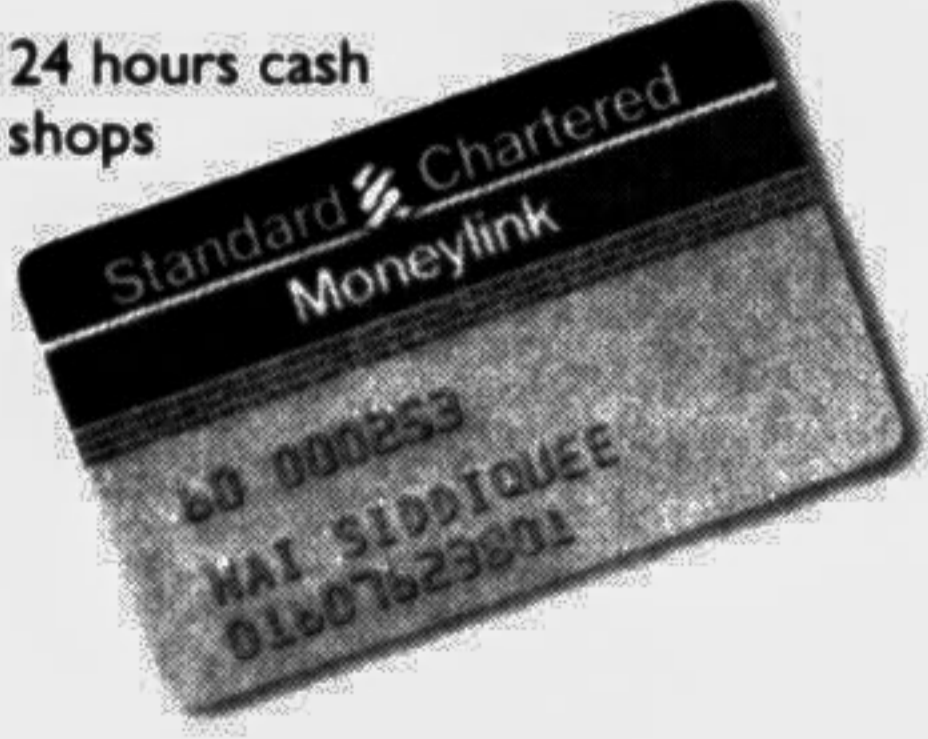
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