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# New FBCCI chief for privatisation of govt industries

By Staff Correspondent

The newly elected President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) Yussuf Abdullah Harun, has said he will make all possible efforts to boost the country's exports.

"I will try to enhance exports," he said while talking to The Daily Star yesterday. "There is no alternative but to increase exports for the development of the economy."

There are impediments to the growth of export oriented industries which should be addressed properly. Many things are yet to be done. The world has become quite competitive," Harun is likely to take charge of the FBCCI on Wednesday at its Annual General Meeting.

Harun said he will take initiatives to encourage setting up of industries at district level with the collaboration of local chambers. Economic activities should be encouraged at district level to boost the rural economy, he said.

Harun emphasised development of infrastructure to attract more foreign investment. Sectors like power generation, telecommunication, transport should be developed further to integrate Bangladesh's economy with the developed economies. The new president of the country's apex trade body observed.

He said the FBCCI would put special emphasis on re-evaluation of the sick industries for their rehabilitation. The FBCCI leader felt that the state owned enterprises should be "released" from the government ownership soon. "Why should the government be in business?" he posed the question. Harun also put emphasis on political stability in the country for take-off of the economy. He also felt the necessity to amend some of the factory laws and labour laws for industrialisation and labour productivity.

## Noapara police camp loot: One more arrested

**From Staff Correspondent**  
 CHITTAGONG, Oct 19: Police last night arrested an alleged terrorist Md Ramjan Ali in connection with the looting of rifles from Noapara police camp under Raozan thana last month.

Acting on a tip off, police raided a city man's centre and picked up Ramjan from a wedding ceremony.

## Govt firm to check cross-border smuggling: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government was determined to check all crimes and irregularities including cross border smuggling in the greater interest of the country, reports BSS.

"We have already directed the administration to take appropriate measures against smuggling and other such activities," she said while hearing reports on cross-border smuggling from leaders of Cox's Bazar District Awami League at the International Conference Centre in the city.

They said salt from Myanmar into Bangladesh and fertiliser from Bangladesh to Myanmar were now being smuggled through the Bay of Bengal. They urged the Prime Minister to take immediate measures against it and the Prime Minister asked them to investigate it locally and submit a report within seven days to her. "We will take action against it," she also said.

Referring to organisational matters related to the Awami League at the local levels, Sheikh Hasina said that central leaders were divided into six teams to deal with it in six divisions.

She said these six teams will look into district, division and union level party organisations and solve problems, if any.

Party leaders from other districts also informed the Prime Minister of various matters which she said would be resolved in due time.

Besides, a number of individuals including women came to the Prime Minister with respective problems and she assured them of solving those gradually.

## Kidnapped girl rescued: 3 held

**SIRAJGANJ, Oct 19:** Police rescued a kidnapped school girl and arrested three young men in this connection from Alokadia in Kamarkhand thana of the district today, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Liton Sheikh, 24, Ashraf Ali 19, and Daibor, 21. Details of their identities were not immediately available.

## Murtaza's killing: Benazir feels unsafe

**ISLAMABAD, Oct 19:** Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was quoted today as saying she did not feel safe after what she called the political murder of her estranged younger brother Murtaza Bhutto, reports Reuter.

She told the Pakistani daily The News she did not believe a police report that Murtaza was killed in a crossfire between police and his guards on September 20. She said her government sought British experts to help find out what really happened.

"I don't know who is the next," Bhutto said. "I don't feel safe any more. My husband and my children are not safe."

Bhutto called Murtaza's killing a conspiracy against her family, party and government and said she was determined to unearth it despite personal risk.

It seems that the Bhuttos are meant to be killed," she said, referring to the execution of her father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1979 after being deposed as prime minister in a 1977 army coup as well as the 1985 death of her youngest brother Shah Nawaz in his flat in southern France in still unexplained circumstances.

Apparently referring to critics who blamed her government for Murtaza's killing, she said she felt a situation had been created similar to that in the port city of Karachi where rival ethnic groups are accused of killing each other's militants.

"I am a politician, an educated person, I know history, and I feel there is more to this," she said.

Bhutto said although Murtaza had formed a rival political group, she always thought that if something happened to her, people would turn to him to carry forward his father's mission and dream of Pakistan which is democratic, federal, egalitarian and progressive.

"After his brutal death, I feel absolutely isolated," she said.

## Tk 400cr telephone bills outstanding since 1971

**CHITTAGONG, Oct 19:** Government, semi-government and autonomous organisations owe Tk 400 crore to the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTB) on account of telephone bills accumulated from 1971 to June 1996, reports UNB.

This was disclosed by the BTB Chairman while exchanging views with representatives of the defaulter organisations in the conference room of Agrabad T&T Bhaban here today.

MH Chowdhury said 60-65 cases had been filed against the defaulters during the period and only Tk 42 lakh was realised in 30 cases which were settled in the court.

He also informed that outstanding bills to the tune of Tk 78 crore were lying with different organisations of Chittagong.

In spite of all the limitations and problems, he said, the BTB is trying to improve its services for the customers by taking a massive plan for modernisation and privatization of mobile telephones in the country.

The BTB Chairman said the government has a plan to install three lakh more telephones in the country by the year 1999 at a cost of Tk 3,000 crore.

With the implementation of this project, all the districts of the country would be brought under a digital system, he said.

The BTB Chairman said if better services to the customers can be ensured authorities may increase the call-rate from next year.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visiting different sectors of the Shilpacharya Zainul Folk Art and Craft Museum at Sonargaon after inaugurating it yesterday.

## PM: Cultural heritage

**From Page 1**  
 crescendo," she added.

"We want to revive the lost glory and fame of folk art and culture," said the Prime Minister seeking cooperation from all for the preservation and flourishing of our cultural heritage.

The government is determined to protect, nurture and flourish the democratic environment and unique cultural heritage of the country, Hasina said.

The Prime Minister hoped that the projects of the foundation folk art museum, craft village and the miniature of Bangladesh — would help enrich the nation's cultural heritage.

She said the government would take some new policies and measures towards preservation, protection, exhibition and restoration of craft works by removing previous setbacks.

The foundation was established at Sonargaon, about 25 kilometre from the capital, on 150 bighas of land to create folk environment, folk village and miniature Bangladesh.

In 1975, with the patronage of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Foundation was set up in an old house at Panamganj. Later, it was shifted and expanded to a new dimension.

Recalling the contribution of Zainul Abedin, Hasina said the Shilpacharya could realise that the beauty of this country exists in its villages.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Obaidul Qader, acting Cultural Secretary Anisul Haque Chowdhury and Director of the Foundation Bazul Rahman Bhuiyan also spoke on the occasion.

The Prime Minister inaugurated the Museum building and went round to see the collections.

She also enjoyed the demonstration of folk marriage, *gaye holud*, *pitha utshab*, rice husking and other folk festivals presented by the children of Shambhupura school.

## Three killed in road accident

Two persons were killed yesterday in two separate road accidents, reports BSS.

Shahjan 18, son of one Wahab Padina of Lalbagh, died on the spot when his autorickshaw was hit by a speedy truck. He was learning how to drive an autorickshaw in early yesterday at Purana Paltan in front of the police box.

His body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue.

In another incident, a minor boy, Nadim Khan, 4, son of one Bashiruddin Khan of village Dhanpur, Kaliganj, was killed when the autorickshaw on which he and his father were travelling overturned yesterday morning at Shibpur, Narsingdi.

The boy was going to his aunt's house with his father.

He was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital immediately where he succumbed to his injury at night.

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent adds: A businessman was killed and another seriously injured as the motorbike they were riding collided head-on with a local bus at Gugud under Sarail thana on the Brahmanbaria-Sylhet highway at around 9:30 am yesterday.

According to police, Mukhtar Hossain, 25, and his friend, Abu Sufian, were heading towards their village home Khamarbari under Sadar thana when the collision took place. Mukhtar Hossain, the driver of the bike, died instantly while Abu Sufian, the co-riider sustained serious injury and was admitted to the Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

## Female students have done better than males

Female students have done a bit better than males in the Higher Secondary Certificate Examination of Rajshahi Board this year, reports UNB.

A total of 41,047 female students appeared at the examination of whom 9,944 came out successful. Their percentage of pass is 24.23.

On the other hand, a total of 79,662 male students appeared at the examinations of whom 18,385 came out successful. The percentage of pass is 23.08.

Ten female candidates were placed in the combined merit list of Science group, nine in the combined merit list of Humanities group and eight in that of Commerce group.

## PM visits city puja mandaps

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that her government believed in non-communal politics and urged all in the country to practise their respective religions enjoying full liberty, reports BSS.

"You all have equal rights to practise your respective religions with due dignity and honour and there will be none to interfere in it," she said unequivocally while addressing a large number of devotees at the Dhakeswari Mandir puja mandap here.

"La kum dinukum waliadin", the Prime Minister recited this holy verse from the Suratul Kafarun of the Holy Quran and said Islam has guaranteed independence of religions.

Earlier on her arrival, she was received cordially by Major General (retd) C R Dutta, K B Roy Chowdhury, Chittaranjan Sarker, Subrata Chowdhury, Swapan Kumar Saha and other leaders of Mahanagar Sharbanjan Puja Ujapan Committee and Bangladesh Puja Ujapan Parishad.

Mayor of Dhaka Muhammad Hanif, Mufazzal Hussain Chowdhury Maya, MP, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, MP, Mohammad Selim, MP and leaders of Dhaka city Awami League accompanied the Prime Minister during her visit.

She also visited Ramkrishna Mission puja mandap where she was received by the mission's Adhakar Swami Akhshananda and other religious leaders.

The Prime Minister spent sometime with the Swami and talked cordially to the devotees there.

Conveying her greetings to the devotees on the occasion of the Durga Puja, the greatest religious festival of the Hindu community, Sheikh Hasina recalled that the Muslim, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and others had participated in the War of Liberation at the call of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to achieve independence.

## Ivan Rybkin new Kremlin security chief

**MOSCOW, Oct 19:** Former Russian parliament speaker Ivan Rybkin was named today as secretary of the powerful Kremlin Security Council and chief negotiator in Chechnya, a Kremlin spokesman said, reports AFP.

Rybkin's positions were formerly held by Alexander Lebed, who was sacked by President Boris Yeltsin for insubordination on Thursday.

Yeltsin, in a rest home outside Moscow waiting for heart surgery, met with Rybkin after naming him, the Kremlin said.

The Security Council advises the president of Russia's top national security matters, including the conflict in Chechnya. As Chechnya trouble shooter, Lebed had sweeping powers and negotiated a peace deal ending the 21-month war in August.

Rybkin, who turns 50 on Sunday, was speaker of the lower house of parliament, the state Duma, until the December 1995 legislative elections. He remains a deputy in the Duma.

## Prodipto wants to study Computer Science

**From Our Correspondent**  
 RAJSHAHI, Oct 19: Prodipto Promitheus Mitra wants to study Computer Science, he said.

He stood second in the combined merit list in Science Group in the Higher Secondary Certificate examination of 1996 under Rajshahi Education Board.

He secured 905 marks with distinctions in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Statistics. He secured fifth position in the Secondary School Certificate examination. He was a student of Rajshahi Government College.

Promitheus studied for eight hours everyday, he said adding that he got inspiration from his parents and teachers.

His fathers Dr Pritee Kumar Mitra is a teacher of Institute of Bangladesh Studies of Rajshahi University. He is the eldest of two children of his parents.

**Rajshahi Board**  
 From Page 1  
 with letters in two subjects.

Nahid Sultana of Joypurhat Government College secured the first position in the female merit list of Commerce group securing 732 marks and distinction in one subject.

Of the examinees, 79,662 were male and 41,047 female and the percentage of pass is 23.08 and 24.23 respectively.

The percentage of pass is 47.90 in Science Agriculture and Home Economics group 26.74 in Commerce group and 17.43 in Humanities, Islamic Studies and Music group.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Rajshahi Education Board Prof Sher Mohammad submitted the HSC Examination results to President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

## President okays new Rules of Business

**From Staff Correspondent**  
 President Shahabuddin Ahmed approved the newly adopted Rules of Business on Thursday. Bangabhaban sources said yesterday.

Under the new Rules, the ministers will work as official heads of the ministries, while the secretaries concerned will discharge their responsibilities as administrative heads.

Former President Abdur Rahman Biswas had refused to sign the document. Sources close to Biswas said, the way the file had been forwarded to him for signature was inconsistent with the usual practice. Bangabhaban sources also confirmed the incident.

## 51.88pc pass Diploma in Com exams

The results of Diploma in Commerce Examinations 1996 were published yesterday with a pass percentage of 51.88, reports UNB.

A total of 4,121 students — 3,179 male and 942 female — appeared at the examination held in July this year. Of them, 2,138 came out successful.

As many as 670 students secured first division, 1,457 second division and 11 got third division in four subjects — Bangla, Secretarial Science, English, Accounting and Multi-lingual Secretarial Science.

M Hasibur Rahman of Dinaipur Government Commercial Institute topped the merit list of Bangla Secretarial Science securing 881 marks with distinction in two subjects.

Mahmudul Hasan of Dhaka Government Commercial Institute stood first in the English Secretarial Science getting 957 marks with three letters.

Khandaker Muradur Rahman of Jessore Government Commercial Institute topped the merit list of Accounting group securing 972 marks with distinction in four subjects.

Mohammad Abdul Aziz of NATRAMS, Bogra, secured first position in the Multi-lingual Secretarial Science group securing 891 marks with five letters.

## Rickshawpullers go on rampage in Barisal

**From Staff Correspondent**  
 BARISAL, Oct 19: A rickshawpuller was killed and two passengers were injured seriously when a speeding bus hit the rickshaw at Dapdapia on Barisal-Fatuakhali road today.

Police and witnesses said that the rickshawpuller, Mota har Malik, 32, died on the spot as a Patuakhali-bound bus from Barisal rammed his rickshaw near Dapdapia gas turbine power station at around 11 am.

The injured passengers were sent to the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

The death of rickshawpuller sparked off violent protest. Rickshaw workers union brought out a procession demanding immediate arrest of the persons responsible. They also damaged some buses and tempos.

## Ershad gets bail

**From Page 1**  
 for Ershad are likely to try to secure his bail in the Manzoor murder case sometime early next month.

The former president interceded at a villa declared as a sub-jail near the Sangsad Bhaban, still faces 13 more cases.

Earlier he was granted bail in four cases since.

Khandaker Mahub Hossain and Yusuf Hossain Humayun yesterday appeared for Ershad who was taken to the court near Dhaka Central Jail under high security. Altaf Hossain, Public Prosecutor represented the state.

Two other accused in the case, former works minister Mostafa Jamal Haider and former works secretary Abdur Rauf, were earlier granted bail.

## Show cause notice

**From Page 1**  
 Police and Customs authorities are keeping a close watch on the unloaded cargo and has decided to check those before delivery, the sources said.

Meanwhile, port police forwarded the "carrier" of the smuggled gold, Jasim and crew Delwar, to the court today on expiry of their remand period.

Police said the two persons confessed their involvement in the gold smuggling by the same ship earlier also.

No other suspects could be arrested till today though police raided some places the city police said adding "they have gone into hiding."

So far, police arrested 8 persons including 4 officials of Q C Shipping Agency.

The ship Q C Teal is owned by BNP MF Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and businessman Salman F Rahman.

A total of 3200 tolas of smuggled gold worth over Tk two crore were recovered from the ship. The vessel was detained after the gold haul.

## President concerned

**From Page 1**  
 Board of Governors of North South University, Dhaka.

The delegation, led by founder president of the University Muslehuddin Ahmed, called on President Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

They invited the President, who is ex-officio chancellor of the university, to the first convocation ceremony of the private varsity, to be held on December 18.

President Ahmed accepted the invitation.

Among others, Secretary to the President Muhammad Enamul Haq, Military Secretary Major-General Ruhul Alam Chowdhury and Chairman of the Board of Governors of the University MA Awal were present on the occasion.

## Transport strike observed in Sylhet

**From Staff Correspondent**  
 SYLHET, Oct 19: Buses, minibuses and microbuses remained off the roads in the district today due to a strike called by the Transport owners and workers associations in support of the striking truckers of Sylhet-Tamabil-Jafflong road.

The owners and workers of trucks have been on strike since Sunday, protesting illegal toll collection at different points of Jafflong-Tamabil road.

Meanwhile, a decision to stop unauthorised toll collection immediately was taken at a meeting held at the DC's office. Representatives of Transport owners and workers and district administration officials attended the meeting. The transport owners and workers then decided to withdraw the strike.

## Flash floods kill 29 in India

**NEW DELHI, Oct 19:** Heavy rains and flash floods have killed 29 people and paralysed normal life in southern India, news agencies reported today, reports AFP.

Ten of the victims died in the coastal state of Tamil Nadu, while 19 others died in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, the United News of India said.

Officials in the Andhra Pradesh state capital Hyderabad said thousands of people marooned and road and rail links disrupted throughout the province following a torrential downpour.

The woes of the people have been aggravated with at least 100 reservoirs breaching," an official said.

Army helicopters have been deployed to drop food packets and medicine to hundreds of people who have taken shelter on rooftops, he said.

The Press Trust of India said the downpour over the past three days was caused by a depression in the Bay of Bengal, and the weather office has predicted heavy rains in the area for another three days.

Most of the dead were washed away by overflowing rivers, police said.

## Quake hits Japan

**TOKYO, Oct 19:** A strong earthquake jolted Japan's southernmost main island of Kyushu to night, prompting officials to issue a tsunami warning along Pacific coastal areas.

The agency said the 7-magnitude tremor hit at 11:44 pm and shook the cities of Miyazaki and Kagoshima, about 900 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, reports AP.

## A B Bank

**From Page 1**  
 Finance Minister SAMS Kibria said, "I do not know anything about this."

Meanwhile, when contacted a high official of the AB Bank said the loanee, Haroon Ferdousi, had applied for finance "providing a 25 per cent margin" and the project was surveyed by both internal and external auditors.

The recommendation of the surveyors was then placed before the management committee which approved it. Later, it was also passed in the Board meeting of the bank and was subsequently approved by the Bangladesh Bank.

The AB bank had paid the loan amount in cheques to the BSRS, the official said, and very recently the BSRS handed over the company to the bank for mortgaging, which is in the process.

The official further said that the Anti-Corruption Bureau had been investigating the case for the last two months and that a number of officials of the bank were questioned in this connection.

Officials of the Bureau again met A Rahim Chowdhury Managing Director and Ramzul Siraj Vice-Chairman of the bank at around noon yesterday, the official said.

The case was filed with the Motijheel thana in the afternoon.

## Correction

In the headline of our front-page story on fall in percentage of pass in HSC exams published on Saturday, 'abolition of question bank' was printed in place of 'absence of question bank'. The inadvertent mistake is regretted.

## Polls in Japan

**From Page 1**  
 and Japanese workers remain far less productive overall than Americans.

On the reform end, the prime minister has pledged to cut the number of government ministries in half to reduce Japan's ballooning budget deficit and eliminate government red tape that many businesses say inhibits growth.

Just this week, an advisory panel to Hashimoto recommended abolishing rules restricting the kinds of business that banks, stockbrokers and insurance companies can expand into.

That reform is stoutly opposed by the Finance Ministry — a typical illustration of the kind of battles Hashimoto may face if he is serious in his promises to battle the powerful unelected bureaucrats who make most of Japan's policies.

The three other main parties — the conservative New Frontier Party, the new liberal-leaning Democratic Party and the Communist Party — all insist they are the true reformers. New Frontier has also proposed a 160 billion dirr tax cut.

But the battle of promises appears to have turned voters off. Polls predict turnout will hit a new low, a breaking the record low of 67 per cent set in the last election.