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**PM's directive to planners**  
**Set 5-year plan for 7 pc GDP growth**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the country's planners to prepare a five-year plan to raise the GDP growth to at least seven per cent and to alleviate poverty, reports UNB.

"Proper planning will bring positive result for us and may even raise the growth to 10 per cent," she said while addressing the officials of the Planning Commission at the NEC auditorium in the morning.

The government has decided to prepare a five-year plan within six months. The Prime Minister said and asked the Planning Commission officials to formulate the plan that would enable the country keep pace with the modern world.

She suggested the planners not to make a plan based on the needs of the capital or urban areas only, but to spread the economic activities across the country.

The Prime Minister, also in charge of the Planning Ministry and chairperson of the Planning Commission, wanted a five-year plan that would enable the country to face the challenge of the 21st century.

"People have given a five-year mandate to us... we want to do something worthwhile for the people within this limited time," she said.

The Prime Minister said that poverty had increased and condition of the people deteriorated for lack of proper planning in the past 21 years.

A piecemeal planning with a hotchpotch of ideas will not give the desired result, she said and directed the officials to come up with a proper five year plan within the stipulated time to extricate the country from the vicious circle of poverty.

Hasina said her government has put all its efforts to build a self-reliant economy and asked the officials to speed up the approval process for projects.

"Our economy is foreign aid dependent and we have many problems," she said, suggesting to be more careful in preparing the five year plan for building a self-reliant economy.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, who is also the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission, said that no country can march forward without proper planning.

He said that only growth in GDP cannot ensure poverty alleviation, and emphasised on proper allocation of resources through establishing a balanced growth pattern.

**Air crash**

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Americans, one Briton and one from Saudi Arabia.

There were no Indians on board the Kazakh airliner.

Indian emergency service is rushing to the site of the accident, the worst mid-air collision in Indian aviation history.

The wreckage reportedly dug a crater three metres deep and 100 metres long.

Air India spokeswoman Rohit Jayakar told AFP the Saudi Boeing 747, had taken off from Indira Gandhi International airport seven minutes before the collision, with 312 passengers and crew on board.

The aircraft was heading for Dahrain and Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.

PTI said the Kazakh cargo plane, a medium range Tupolev-154, was believed to have 39 people on board and was flying in from Kazakhstan.

Witnesses reported a fireball near the village of Charkhi Dadri, a village in flat farmland about 100 kilometers west of the Indian capital, police said.

Building contractor Rao Singh witnessed the crash from his home. "I saw a fireball and big black smoke about three or four kilometers from my house falling into the fields," he said, reached by telephone and speaking in Hindi.

The sky was absolutely red, he said.

It was the fifth deadly crash since 1993 involving a Tupolev-154, a three-engine, medium-range aircraft that is the workhorse of air fleets throughout the former Soviet Union.



Indian artiste Alisha performing at Mirpur Indoor Stadium in the city yesterday. — Star photo

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**Pay Commission**

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mission to fix a pay scale and other benefits in the light of changes in the prices of essentials, Kibria said.

The meeting held at the Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance was chaired by former Cabinet Secretary and president of the Commission M Mujibul Haq. Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan attended as special guest.

The Finance Minister called for taking into consideration the actual situation, resource limitation, balance of income and expenditure, revenue earnings, resource mobilisation for investment to develop the country and overall economic situation in formulating an equitable pay structure.

Kibria assured the members of the Pay Commission to extend all types of logistic support so that they could perform their task properly.

Mujibul Haq urged members of the Commission to proceed with a working plan to complete their task within a short time. Members of the National Pay Commission were present on the occasion.

**NGOs on Action Plan**

From Page 1  
representation from the Group of Seven countries not being of Summit stature, and in particular on Britain's sending overseas aid chief, Baroness Chalker, who is not a member of the cabinet.

At a press conference, the secretary-general of the World Food Summit, Kay Killingsworth responded to this by saying that a country's pledges should not be judged by the lofty position of its delegation's leader in the national government. She added that all FAO member countries had done the two and a half years work of negotiating the Rome Declaration and World Food Summit Plan of Action.

Most delegations are already in town, ensconced at various hotels. Some are scattered all over town, while many countries have taken over entire hotels.

The Indonesian delegation has reportedly taken 80 rooms at the expensive Excelsior on Via Veneto, not to mention three bullet-proof Mercedes cars. The Chinese delegation is one of the largest, but one still does not know which will be the smallest.

But big or small, and whether headed by King, President or a humble Agriculture Minister, it is fervently hoped by the serious Summit watchers that most delegations will take an active part in a unique opportunity to commit themselves to the problem of those who have no physical and economic access to food.

Today when the eyes of the world turn on the participants, it is hoped that everyone will remember the real protagonists of the Summit: the unfortunate who, in Drouf's words, "are dying, quietly — not under the television cameras of the world."

**Indemnity (Repeal) Bill**

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next session of Parliament for approval, and in case it is not placed before the House within 30 days of its promulgation, the Ordinance concerned gets automatically lapsed," the state minister said.

But the Indemnity Ordinance, 1975 had never been produced before the House, the minister said to argue that the Ordinance had never been converted into an Act of Parliament.

Quoting a relevant Article of the Constitution, the state minister told the House that no Ordinance could be promulgated in violation of the "basic principles" of the Constitution.

The Indemnity Ordinance obstructing trial of the killers was a violation of a constitutional provision that guarantees every citizen the "inalienable right" to enjoy the protection of law. It is unimaginable in a civil society that the family members of a killed person would not be allowed to go to the court, he observed. "By all these considerations, the Indemnity Ordinance has no legal footing."

Without explaining why the Parliament now needed to re-

**AL invites BNP**

From Page 1  
proval of the demands by the BNP chief.

"Questioning authenticity of the demands, submitted by myself, is ridiculous... and it proves how lightly the Speaker has taken up the issue," Prof Choudhury said.

Referring to the dialogue offer made by the Chief Whip and the MP's adviser, the BNP leader commented, "Had there been any doubt about consent of our party chief to the demands, the two government leaders would not have offered for talks on our demands. But the Speaker is suffering from the doubt... it's very sad and unfortunate."

Meanwhile, Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury, while exchanging views with newsmen at the Committee Room of the Parliament, said that he did not receive any request to initiate a dialogue either from the Treasury or the Opposition benches.

"As Speaker, it won't be proper to initiate a talk under the prevailing circumstances unless I'm approached by either side," he told a questioner referring to BNP's 10-point demand that also contained some accusations against him.

**RMCH clash**

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allegedly by the Fourth Class employees and police on doctors and students.

According to the sources, the clash began following a row between an intern doctor and a hospital maid.

At a stage, some Fourth Class employees gathered there and allegedly rushed to attack the intern doctor. After sometime more employees came and chased the doctor.

At about 2 pm, about 200 intern doctors and medical college students brought out a procession in the hospital premises. The procession was allegedly attacked by the employees and some outsiders.

During the clash, spread to the entire hospital area, both sides used lethal weapons and blast cocktails, witnesses said. After some time police went to the spot and resorted to lathi charge and fired tear gas shells to disperse them.

The Rajshahi Medical College Hospital Internee Doctors Association in an emergency meeting this evening announced an indefinite strike, demanded removal of the Director of RMCH and punishment of the attackers.

The All Party Students Unity comprising Chhatra Dal, Chhatra League, Islami Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra Union has supported the demands.

**Dhaka's participation in IOR must, says Australian scholar**

A visiting Australian scholar yesterday said Bangladesh's participation in the Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) is essential for regional cooperation, reports UNB.

Exchanging views with newsmen on the emerging trade bloc, Rob Meecham hoped that Bangladesh would attend the forthcoming meeting of the IOR Consultative Business Network in Durban of South Africa next March.

It will be the second meeting of the Network to be attended by five other important countries. Besides Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Thailand, Pakistan and the Maldives have been invited to participate in the Durban meeting.

The Network's first meeting was held in New Delhi last December.

IOR, an association for regional cooperation of countries in the ocean belt, will be formally launched at a meeting of its Council of Ministers in Port Louis of Mauritius next March.

Ministers of 14 inaugurating countries in Port Louis will sign the charter of the organisation, Meecham said.

Rob Meecham, who is the Associate Director of the Indian Ocean Centre in Perth of Australia, has been working on the Indian Ocean region issues since the mid 1980's when he raised the concept of conference of the countries in the region.

**Gowda invites**

From Page 1  
resumed today and are expected to continue tomorrow. Foreign Minister Azad is also expected to meet some other Indian leaders, including External Affairs Minister Inder K Gujral, tomorrow.

During his meetings with the Indian leaders, Abdus Samad Azad was assisted by Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, High Commissioner Shafi Sami and additional foreign secretary Tariq Karim.

**BAU campus**

From Page 1  
normalcy on the campus and root out the terrorists who had disrupted the academic atmosphere for the last five years."

Salam blamed the JCD for "creating lawlessness" on the campus.

He also claimed that some teachers of the BAU were "maintaining unholy alliance with those elements."

"They want to force closure of the university," he added.

Asked about ransacking of some rooms in the halls and office rooms of some teachers in the last few days, the BCL leader said, "It was our expression of anger over their terrorist activities."

No JCD leader was available on the campus even after repeated attempts. The sources said that many of them had gone into hiding after the incident of killing.

The Bangladesh Agriculture University Central Students Union (BACSU) was dissolved in July last following expiry of its tenure. Date for elections is yet to be announced.

**Kailashtila**

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The expected production period of the well has been estimated at 15 years.

The minister also informed that production in the country's lone oil well in Haripur was stopped on July 15, 1994 as the natural pressure in the well reduced gradually.

The feasibility of pumping out oil from this well known as Well No 7 of Haripur is being examined. Decision in this regard will be taken on the basis of underground reserve and technical and financial feasibility.

Khan told Alamgir Muhammad Mahfuz Ullah Farid that the government had no plan for exporting natural gas in the context of the current reserve of the gas.

But provisions of export of gas in LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) form are in the Petroleum Policy 1993, he said.

**World Food Summit**

From Page 1  
The agriculture sector has been given the highest priority by the Bangladesh government but access to food remains the biggest problem in the country due to poverty, Hiroyuki Konuma said highlighting the position paper on Bangladesh.

"According to UN Human Development Report, more than 50 per cent of the people here live in absolute poverty," he said.

Some 85 per cent of total staple food requirement is being produced locally while the rest is being imported. "It's not so bad. But the average per capita calorie intake here is 20 per cent below the FAO standard because of the poor purchasing power of the people."

"Over 90 per cent children aging between 6 months and 5 years are undernourished in Bangladesh and growth of 47 per cent of rural children are stunted," he added.

By 2010, Bangladesh must augment its food production by at least 50 per cent to stay even with the population growth. "It is a big challenge. We are now preparing a strategy for fast increase of agricultural productivity by intensive cropping and crop diversification, increased emphasis on research activities, introduction of new High Yielding varieties and new technology and other inputs. All the future schemes would be environment friendly."

To assess the food security condition in Bangladesh, a Sustainable Food Security Mission with experts from UNDP, FAO and the government will start functioning from December or January to identify food demand and supply gap and potential of natural resource base to achieve sustainability in order to cover that gap with additional investment and input.

The Mission will also outline the draft Food Security Policy for the country on the basis of its findings by June-July next. "This policy would be pro-poor and gender sensitive," said the FAO chief in Bangladesh.

**BCL demands arrest of Khaleda**

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday staged demonstration demanding immediate arrest of Begum Khaleda Zia, BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition, on charge of "treason," report UNB.

"Khaleda Zia has no right to make aspersive comment on the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as it is recognised in the Constitution," BCL president Enamul Haq Shamim said at a rally on the Dhaka University campus.

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এবারের সেবা সপ্তাহের প্রতিপাদ্য বিষয় সমূহ

<p><b>ব্যাংকের নিকট সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের প্রত্যাশা</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>সৌজন্যমূলক আচরণ</li> <li>শাখার সার্বিক ব্যবস্থাপনার পরিচ্ছন্নতা</li> <li>আগে আসলে আগে পাবার জিঞ্জিত ব্যাংকের দ্রুত সেবার নিশ্চয়তা</li> <li>ব্যাংকের কার্যক্রম পালনে অগ্রয়োজনীয় আলাপ পরিবার</li> <li>স্বাগতমূলক আচরণ</li> <li>শৈথিল্য ও সহনশীলতা</li> </ul>	<p><b>সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের কাছে ব্যাংকের প্রত্যাশা</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ব্যাংকের সমৃদ্ধি অর্জনে সর্বগ্রকার সহায়তা প্রদান</li> <li>ব্যাংকের প্রচলিত নিয়ম-কানুন মেনে চলা এবং বিবাসিত সেবা নিষেধাধার জেনে নেয়া</li> <li>শুধুলা রক্ষার সারিবদ্ধ হয়ে কাউন্টারে অপেক্ষা করা</li> <li>পৃথীত স্বপ্ন নিয়মিত পরিশোধ করা ও অন্যকে স্বপ্ন পাওয়ার সুযোগ প্রদান</li> <li>ব্যাংক প্রদত্ত সকল প্রকার সক্ষম সুবিধার সুযোগ গ্রহণ</li> <li>শাখা ব্যবস্থাপককে অভিবোধ অবহিতকরণ</li> </ul>
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সম্মানিত গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক ও উত্থান্যায়ীদের নিষিদ্ধ ও আন্তরিক পরিবেশ সৃষ্টির মাধ্যমে ব্যাংক-গ্রাহক সম্পর্কোন্নয়ন এবং ব্যবসায়িক সমৃদ্ধি অর্জনে সার্বিক সহায়তা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ অনুরোধ করা গেল।

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