

First 6 months
76 pc of ADP
expenditure
target
achieved

An amount of Tk 4,227 crore was spent under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) during the first six months of the current fiscal year (1996-97), reports UNB.

The amount is 34 per cent of the total size of the ADP of Tk 12,500 crore and 76 per cent of expenditure targeted for the first six months.

This was disclosed at a review meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) at its conference room yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting, said an official handout.

It was explained in the course of the discussion that be-

See Page 12 Col 3

2 bills passed
to bolster SEC

Parliament yesterday passed two bills to bolster the Securities and Exchange Commission to protect investors' interest effectively and efficiently, reports UNB.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria piloted both the bills — the Securities and Exchange (Amendment) Bill 1997 and the Securities and Exchange (Amendment) Bill 1997.

The House was half-empty when the first Bill, the Securities and Exchange (Amend-

See Page 12 Col 7

Inside Today

Article

Of Pay and the Pay Commission

by Mohammad Nurunnabi Choudhury

Page 4

Focus

Asian agriculture and the new millennium-III

Page 5

International

US urges India, Pakistan to end row over Kashmir

Violence claims 31 more in Algeria

Page 8

Business

BGMEA step soon to reopen closed RMG factories

21-point rise in DSE index

Pages 6, 7

Announcement

Results of the Banking Diploma Examinations (first and second part), held in October '96 are on Page 9

Dhaka International Trade Fair '97

Venue



Sher-e-Bangla Nagar (to the west of Rokeya Sarani and south of Planning Commission).

22 February-21 March '97.

22 February '97 at 10.30 AM (for invited guests only).

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh **Sheikh Hasina**.

Fair Timing for General Public :

- a. Inaugural day (22 February '97) : 2 PM to 9 PM.
- b. All week days excepting Friday : 10 AM to 9 PM.
- c. Friday : 10 AM to 12 Noon and 2 PM to 10 PM.

ORGANISED BY :

Ministry of Commerce and Export Promotion Bureau

DDP-3857-19/2

TOO LATE BROTHER: Pakistan A skipper Asif Mujtaba seems to say to a grounded Khaled Masud, the Bangladesh wicketkeeper who whipped the bails off in a bid to stump the left-hander off slow left-arm Enamul Haq's bowling in the inaugural match of the third SAARC cricket tourney at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Man-of-the-match Mujtaba scored a half century as the Pakistan side chalked up a convincing six-wicket victory over the hosts. (Story on Page 10)

— Star photo

Sub-regional cooperation 'Distrust, suspicions have to be removed'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a "Dialogue on Interactions with Indian Bordering States" in the city yesterday observed that past suspicions and inhibitions continue to mystify and hinder the prospects of sub-regional cooperation and stressed the need for a change in the mindset of the people in order to forge closer links with neighbouring

areas for greater economic operation and prosperity.

They felt that distrust and suspicion which were 'baggage of the past' had to be removed to pave the way for greater sub-regional cooperation among Bangladesh, the adjoining states of north eastern India, Bhutan and Nepal.

The two-day dialogue spread over four sessions organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS), which began at its auditorium yesterday, was inaugurated by Finance Minister S A M S Kibria. It was addressed by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abdul Hasan Chowdhury. Former Foreign Secretary A K H Morshed and Acting Director of BISS Brigadier Shahedul Anam Khan.

The Finance Minister said that the historic water-sharing treaty signed in December between Bangladesh and India was a manifestation of a new spirit of cooperation and had

See Page 12 Col 4

Rule Nisi on govt for showcase on BB official

By Staff Correspondent

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Mainur Reza Choudhury and Justice M A Aziz issued a *Rule Nisi* on the government to show cause within two weeks why a showcase notice served a by the Finance Ministry on Mosharabur Rahman Khan, deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank.

The Finance Minister said that the historic water-sharing treaty signed in December between Bangladesh and India was a manifestation of a new spirit of cooperation and had

See Page 12 Col 4

See Page 12