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# The Daily Star

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## Govt to set up 12 science, technology varsities

The government under its master plan will set up 12 science and technology universities in the country to bring about a radical change in the field of education, reports UNB.

To implement the master plan, the government has formulated a project, involving Tk 152.61 crore, said an official handout last night.

It said the new universities will be set up in the country's old district towns where there is no such university.

The Education Ministry has undertaken a massive plan to bring about a change in the country's primary and higher education giving more emphasis on science and technology.

Education Minister ASHK Sadique has directed the authorities to implement the plan quickly.

See Page 12 Col 6

## Revenue earning up by 15.21 pc in nine months

Government's revenue earning grew 15.21 per cent to Tk 8770.58 crore in the first three quarters of current fiscal year, reports UNB.

An official announcement said yesterday the revenue receipt in July-March period was Tk 1158.09 crore higher than that of the corresponding period of last (1995-96) fiscal year.

The National Board of Revenue, in its release, said during March 1997, revenue collection was Tk 1145.54 crore which is Tk 160.69 crore or 16.31 per cent above the target fixed for the months.

See Page 12 Col 1

## Policy on HIV, AIDS related issues okayed

The cabinet has approved the national policy on HIV/AIDS and STD related issues, reports BSS.

The approval was given at a cabinet meeting held last night at the Prime Minister's Office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, reports BSS.

## Saudi embassy to accept marriage document attested by foreign ministry

The embassy of Saudi Arabia has agreed to accept the marriage document (nikahnama) attested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for giving visas to wives of Bangladeshis working in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, reports BSS.

Officials said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took up the matter with the Saudi embassy here recently and an agreement was signed providing a solution to the problem for spouses of Bangladeshis waiting to join their husbands working in Saudi Arabia.

So long, the wives of Bangladeshis working in Saudi Arabia found it difficult to obtain visas as they found no well defined source of attesting their marriage documents (nikahnama) required by the Saudi embassy for issuing the visas.

## Inside Today Article

**Review of Bangladesh Development, 1996**

Column: Window on Asia by Shahed Latif Page 4.

## Focus

**Food and faith: Ethics and food security** Page 5

## International

**Face-to-face talks with Sharif will lead to warm ties: Gujral** Page 8

## Business

**Frozen food export earnings likely to increase in '96-97**

**DSE price index continues to leap** Pages 6,7

## ADP revised at Tk 12000cr GDP growth rate to be 5.7 pc this fiscal

The growth rate of country's gross domestic product (GDP) will go up to 5.7 per cent at the end of current fiscal year, the highest in last ten years, reports UNB.

This GDP growth rate will be the highest in last ten years in real terms, the Planning Commission informed a meeting of the National Economic Council yesterday at NEC auditorium with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The meeting decided to form a task force with a target of boosting private investment in industrial, agricultural and service sectors to accelerate the growth further.

The meeting was told that the annual development programme had been fixed at Tk

12,000 crore with a view to implementing properly the five-year plan commencing July 1 this year.

It was stated that the ADP allocation was revised downward from the original size of Tk 12,500 crore, but even then, overall annual production would be higher than projected in the ADP because of production skill.

The meeting was also informed that ADP implementation rate during first eight months of the current fiscal year (1996-97) was higher than the corresponding months of the previous three years.

From July to February this fiscal, overall ADP implementation was 48 per cent — 50 per cent in terms of money and 46

per cent in project.

In 1995-96 (from July to Feb), the ADP implementation was total 46 per cent — money 45 per cent and project 46 per cent — and in 1994-95 it was total 47 per cent — money 47 per cent and project also 47 per cent.

This year, after March, ADP spendings reached 57 per cent and will stand at 75 per cent after April, which the meeting noted showed signs of improvement.

In the revised ADP in last three years allocation in the social sector was 33 per cent in the year 1994-95, 33 per cent in 1995-96 and 36 per cent in the current fiscal.

Addressing the meeting, the

See Page 12 Col 4



Good days for hand fan traders! The indigenous fan made of palm leaf is having a good market in the city now-a-days due to the scorching heat and loadshedding. — Star photo

## JS session begins May 10 Duration, issues yet to be decided

The ruling Awami League is yet to take a decision on the probable duration of the next Jatiya Sangsad (JS) session, which is scheduled to begin on May 10.

According to sources in the AL caucus, the party is also undecided about the issues to be discussed and debated during the session. However, the Business Advisory Committee of Jatiya Sangsad comprising senior leaders of both the Treasury and Opposition benches is scheduled to meet on May 9 to decide these things.

Some AL leaders told The Daily Star that the session was likely to be a brief one. "The session had been called mainly to meet the constitutional obligation of holding parliament sittings at least every two months," one of the senior AL leaders said. The last session was prorogued on March 13 last.

Some leaders of the ruling AL however maintained that the session might be dragged, with a long recess up to June, to place the national budget for fiscal 1997-98. There is a legal

obligation to get the supplementary budget for 1996-97 passed by parliament on or before June 30 this year.

Meanwhile, Chief Whip of Parliament Abul Hasnat Abdullah recently sent a letter to his Opposition counterpart, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, to give a list of BNP legislators for the standing committee on various ministries. Khandaker Delwar Hossain is yet to send the list to the Chief Whip, sources said. Mentionably, there is a dispute between the AL and BNP over the share of membership in the standing committee.

However, the Standing Committee on JS Rules of Procedure is scheduled to meet on May 8. The members of the committee hinted that the issue of the BNP-proposed amendment to JS Rules of Procedure seeking proportionate membership of the standing committee on ministries would come up for discussion at the meeting.

They also hinted that before the formal meeting, some leaders of the contending camps

See Page 12 Col 3

## Dates for JS question-answer session

The Jatiya Sangsad secretariat has allotted provisional dates to different ministries and divisions for the question-answer hour for the coming Fourth Session of the Sangsad beginning on May 10, according to a source in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will reply the queries of parliament members on different ministries for 15 minutes on every Tuesday during the session.

The one-hour question-answer session will be reduced to 45 minutes on the day, the source pointed out.

The opening day of the session has been selected for the Ministries of Communications, Jute, and Works and Housing.

May 11 for Finance, Banking, Internal Resources, Economic Relations, and Posts and Telecommunications Ministries.

May 12 for Health and Family Welfare, Shipping, Religious and Cultural Affairs Ministries.

May 13 for Prime Minister, Information, Industries, Energy and Mineral Resource and Textile Ministries.

May 14 for Water Resources, Law and Parliamentary Affairs.

See Page 12 Col 7

## Average life expectancy in Bangladesh now 56 years

Average life expectancy of the people of Bangladesh had been registered as 56 years while average South Asian people lives up to 61 years, BSS quoting a recent human development report on South Asia said.

The report said people in the developing countries live up to 62 years while people in the developed industrial countries live up to 74 years.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics disseminated worldwide yesterday said the life expectancy at birth has increased globally by 4.6 years between 1980 to 1995. The increase was registered at 4.4 years for males and 4.9 years for females.

The WHO statistics said life expectancy at birth was 48 years in 1955, 59 years in 1975 and 65 years in 1995.

WHO has warned that cancer cases would be doubled in the developing countries and jump by 40 per cent in richer ones by 2020.

As a result, the number of cancer patients is expected to increase from 10 million annual cases to 15 million in that period, the WHO report 1997 released worldwide yesterday said.

The report said, citizens in the developing countries have traditionally been more at risk from infectious diseases, are vulnerable to chronic diseases as well.

"Already, the outlook for most individuals in the developing world is that if they do manage to survive the killer infections at infancy, childhood and maturity, they will become exposed in later life to non-communicable diseases," the report said.

One key reason is that the "people in poorer countries are now acquiring many of the unhealthy lifestyles and behaviours of the industrialized world: Sedentary occupations, inadequate physical activity, unsatisfactory diets, tobacco, alcohol and drugs," the study

says.

Circulatory diseases such as heart attacks kill 15.3 million people a year while cancer in all forms kill 6.3 million people.

Though infectious and parasitic diseases claim more than 17 million lives in developing countries, a quarter of these fatalities today can be attributed to heart attacks, strokes and other circulatory diseases.

Cancer is the third biggest killer in the developing world, claiming almost four million lives a year, the study says.

Liver cancer is a major problem in developing countries, with China alone registering 55 per cent of all cases.

The most ominous trends registered worldwide are in breast and lung cancer, which kills almost a million people a year.

As tobacco consumption is increasing in many developing countries, the lung cancer epidemic seems certain to grow, according to the report.

## Dawn-to-dusk hartal in Ctg Divn today

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Chittagong division today to protest government's 'failure' in arresting the killers of party activists, reports UNB.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia announced the hartal programme at a public meeting at the Outer Stadium in the port city on Saturday.

This will be the second hartal programme called by the central BNP against the 11-month-old Awami League government. The party enforced a nationwide half-day hartal on March 23 protesting government policies in various fields.

Eleven districts of Chittagong division will come under the ambit of the general strike mainly to protest the killing of Juba Dal leader Nasir and JCD leader Tushar in Feni last March.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a

See Page 12 Col 3

## 2 more rescued from Azimpur flat of same govt official

Police broke open the door of the flat of a senior assistant secretary at the Azimpur government staff quarters early yesterday and rescued two persons from the house.

Lalbagh police, in the presence of some government officials, broke the lock of the second floor house of Enamul Kabir at about 1 am. They picked up Majeda, 32, and Yusuf, 11, from the house, police said.

Later police sent the two to

See Page 12 Col 2

## Indian goods grabbed local markets since '94

Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed yesterday acknowledged that Bangladesh has become the market to others, particularly of Indian goods which grabbed the local market since 1994, reports UNB.

"It definitely has been a great concern for the local industrialists and overall economy of the country," he said while talking to the visiting IMF team when they called on him at his office in the city.

Senior advisor to the Asia-Pacific department of the International Monetary Fund Margaret R Kelly led the delegation.

Tofael said after the signing of the Uruguay Round Agreement (URA) in 1994, Bangladesh has withdrawn Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) drastically reducing tariff and para-tariff barriers on import

See Page 12 Col 2

## Two killed in hailstorm in city

At least two persons were killed in a hailstorm in Hazaribagh and Maniknagar areas of the city yesterday afternoon.

Md Faruq, 18, son of one Fazlur Rahman, was struck by lightning during the storm at about 5 pm. He was playing football near the town protection embankment at the time, the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) sources said.

Zafar, 20, a rickshawpuller, was electrocuted when a power supply line got snapped at Maniknagar during the storm.

The bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

## Roundtable in Chittagong told Consensus needed to face challenges of 21st century

CHITTAGONG, May 5: Participants in a round-table conference here today stressed the need for national consensus and development of political culture in the country to face the challenges of the 21st century.

The conference was organised by the vernacular daily 'Bhoror Kagoj' by courtesy of Reckitt & Colman at a local hotel here.

The theme of the conference was "Bangladesh in the 21st century and future of student youths."

Among the participants in the open discussion were eminent educationist Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Prof Hamida Banu, former president of Chittagong Chamber Ali Ahmed, chief executive officer of Chittagong Stock Exchange Shamsul Kamal, Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University Prof Anupom Sen, editor of Bhoror Kagoj Motiur Rahman, commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police Motabbar Hossain, editor of the daily Azadi Prof Md Khaled and Nazrul Hossain Bulbul.

The conference was conducted by resident editor of the Bhoror Kagoj in Chittagong, Abul Momen.

Prof Zillur Rahman in his

See Page 12 Col 8

## 4 DSE councillors step down

Star Report

Four councillors of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) including its vice chairman resigned yesterday, paving the way for reorganisation of the DSE board of councillors amid mounting pressure from its members to make it more credible following the recent share market scam.

However, DSE Chairman Imtiaz Hossain refused to resign despite demands from a large number of members who feel that he and four other members accused in the scam cases lodged by the authorities concerned for manipulating share prices last year should resign from executive posts.

"Everything will have to be democratic and according to the DSE Memorandum of Articles of Association," the Chairman said in reply to a question from newsmen whether he would step down.

He claimed that the investors did not lose their confidence in the DSE and its executive body members. "This body can only be replaced through an election which we are trying to hold earlier than scheduled," Hossain said.

Talking to newsmen shortly after the DSE board meeting yesterday evening, he admitted that two council members had submitted their resignation letters to the Secretary of the DSE. "But I am yet to see what reasons they showed in their resignation letters," he said.

Nobody raised any proposal regarding "my resignation or that of all members of the board at the meeting. So no discussion was held in this regard," he said. The only resolution passed at the meeting concerned the replacement of a council member, Shamsul Alam. He re-

See Page 12 Col 4

## PM's letter to G-7 leaders Access for LDC goods, more FDI urged

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the G-7 countries for improved access to markets for the products of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), reports UNB.

She also emphasised on taking steps to encourage foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to the LDCs.

Hasina, writing on behalf of the 48 LDCs, made the request in letters addressed to the heads of state and government of the seven highly industrialised countries ahead of the G-7 summit to be held in the second half of June in Denver, USA.

The Prime Minister's letters to President Chirac, Chancellor Kohl, Prime Minister Hashimoto, Prime Minister Chretien, Prime Minister Prodi and the newly-elected British Prime Minister Tony Blair will be delivered in the respective capitals, shortly.

Hasina's letter to President Clinton was delivered by the Foreign Secretary personally to

Robin Raphael, assistant secretary of state for South Asia, in New York on May 1.

Copies of the letters were handed over to the heads of mission of the G-7 countries in Dhaka yesterday by the Foreign Secretary.

In her letter, Hasina described the globalisation as an engine of development and growth. She, however, apprehended that the process of globalisation might accentuate inequality in poorer countries, which was earlier reflected in the Lyon summit's economic communiqué.

The Prime Minister mentioned that the LDCs today accounted for even less than 0.4 per cent of global inflows of FDI and accounted for only 0.4 per cent of international trade.

She suggested four specific measures for consideration at the Denver summit. These are: Provision of duty-free treatment on an automatic basis to

See Page 12 Col 6

## BPC plans jt ventures with private sector

By Masud Arif and Reaz Ahmad

The Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) is seeking to expand tourism facilities by establishing new tourist complexes in the country and is also considering proposals for joint ventures at the private level.

Meanwhile, two Indian companies have made offers from joint venture projects in Bangladesh, BPC sources said.

A Calcutta-based company, Kenilworth Group, recently put forward a proposal for building a five-star hotel at the BPC's headquarters premises on Old Airport Road in Dhaka.

The company, which operates a chain of three five-star hotels — in New Delhi, Calcutta and Bhubaneswar — has a partnership deal with a Bangladeshi company, Bengal Fine Ceramics (BFC).

Kenilworth officials have held preliminary talks with BPC over the past two months, the minutes of which have been forwarded to the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry.

The sources said if the Ministry approved the plan to build on the BPC property, a tripartite deal would be struck among BPC, Kenilworth and BFC.

Another Indian company, Peerles Group, also has a joint venture partnership with local business house Ideal Enterprise and is currently progressing with a planned package tour programme called "Sentimental Tourism."

Sources said that through this programme, Peerles Group aimed at offering a tour route from Ajmer to Calcutta, Dhaka, Rangamati, and finally Cox's Bazar.

Besides the five-star hotel plan, BPC also wants to construct three tourist complexes

See Page 12 Col 5

## Two-day AL national council begins today

By Staff Correspondent

A two-day national council of the ruling Awami League begins in the city today.

Prime Minister and AL president Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to open the council at 3 pm at the Outer Stadium.

The last national council of the party was held in September, 1992 and a special council was held in September, 1995.

According to party sources, some 2,500 councillors, a similar number of party delegates and thousands of party leaders and workers from across the country will attend the council. A big podium has been raised at the venue for the council.

Sheikh Hasina will open the council by hoisting the National Flag and the party flag. After recitation from the holy books, an obituary reference will be read out. The party chief will deliver her speech after the

See Page 12 Col 6

## Loadshedding Ctg PDB office attacked: Engineer hurt

CHITTAGONG, May 5: Angry subscribers attacked the PDB Chief Engineer's office here today protesting erratic power supply and frequent loadshedding in the port city, reports UNB.

Sujit Chakma, the Executive Engineer of Halishahar division of PDB, was injured during the attack at about 12.30 pm.

Some windowpanes were also damaged when the protesters hurled stones towards the office, after surrounding it from all sides.

PDB Chief Engineer for Chittagong region SA Mueyed told UNB that the demand of power in greater Chittagong region, including Cox's Bazar and the three hill districts, is around 320-325 megawatt but the present supply is only 108 mw.

People in the port city are currently experiencing 10-15 hours of loadshedding daily.

## Chief engr of Ashuganj Power Station suspended

Four Power Development Board (PDB) engineers including the chief engineer of the Ashuganj Power Station were suspended yesterday for negligence of duty, PDB sources said in Dhaka last night, reports BSS.

Dr Toufique Elahi Chowdhury Bir Bikram, Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and Nuruddin Mahmud Kamal, Chairman, PDB visited the power station yesterday and suspended the engineers after the engineers were found prima facie guilty of dereliction of duty.

Those suspended are Akhter

See Page 12 Col 4

### শেয়ার বাজারে বিনিয়োগ সম্পর্কিত কতিপয় পরামর্শ

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- যদিও শেয়ার বাজার কখনও ঝুঁকিমুক্ত নয় তথাপি নিম্নমুখী বাজারে সেচতেন হয়ে শেয়ার ক্রয় করলে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে লাভবান হওয়া যায় ও বাজারে স্থিতিশীলতা বজায় থাকে। তাছাড়া বাজারে যখন মূল্য কম থাকে সাধারণতঃ তখন কোম্পানীর সম্পদ বা আয়ের সাথে মূল্যের অধিকতর সামঞ্জস্য থাকে।
- যেহেতু শেয়ার বাজারে কম বেশী ঝুঁকি সব সময়ই থাকে তাই সঞ্চয়ের সবটুকু শেয়ার বাজারে বিনিয়োগ করা উচিত নয়। কোন একটি নির্দিষ্ট কোম্পানীতে বিনিয়োগ না করে কয়েকটি কোম্পানীতে বিনিয়োগ করলে ঝুঁকি কমে না, লাভের সম্ভাবনাও বাড়ে।
- মিউচুয়াল ফান্ডের বিনিয়োগ সাধারণতঃ কম ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ। তালিকাভুক্ত কোম্পানীর প্রাথমিক ও বাইট শেয়ার বিনিয়োগের উপর আয়কর রেয়াত পাওয়া যায়। তাছাড়া শেয়ারের উপর অর্জিত মূলধনী লাভ সম্পূর্ণ আয়কর মুক্ত।
- তালিকাভুক্ত কোম্পানীর শেয়ার ষ্টক এক্সচেঞ্জে বিক্রয়যোগ্য বিধায এর তারল্যতা (লিকুইডিটি) বয়েছে।
- বিনিয়োগ সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের পূর্বে সঠিকভাবে কোম্পানীর আর্থিক অবস্থা, ব্যবসা পরিস্থিতি, ব্যবস্থাপনা দক্ষতা, সুশাসন ও শেয়ার মূল্য ও আয়ের সম্পর্ক ইত্যাদি বিবেচনা করে শেয়ারে বিনিয়োগ করলে ঝুঁকির সম্ভাবনা কম থাকে।

**সিকিউরিটিজ ও এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন**

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