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VOL. VII NO. 102 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Daily Star

BAISHAKH 23 1404 BS.

DHAKA TUESDAY, MAY 6, 1997

ZILHAJJ 28 1417 HIJRI

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

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 (*nikah-nama*) attested by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for giving visas to wives of Bangladeshi 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 Bangladeshi waiting to join their husbands working in Saudi Arabia.

So long, the wives of Bangladeshi working in Saudi Arabia found it difficult to obtain visas as they found no well defined source of attesting their marriage documents (*nikah-nama*) 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: Gurjal
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 fifth 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 — in 1994-95 it was total 47 per cent — money 47 per cent and project also 47 per cent.

This year, after March, ADP spending 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

By Staff Correspondent

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 30 this year.

Meanwhile, Chief Whip of Parliament Abul Hasnat Abdul 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.

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.

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

Dates for JS question-answer session

The Jatiya Sangsad secretariate 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

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 BSS.

"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

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

harter 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 Jubo 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

By Staff Correspondent

Police broke open the door of the flat of 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

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See Page 12 Col 2

Two killed in hailstorm in city

By DMC Correspondent

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.

See Page 12 Col 2

Roundtable in Chittagong told

Consensus needed to face challenges of 21st century

From Staff Correspondent

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 'Bhorer Kagoj' by courtesy of

Chittagong Chamber of