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7pc growth rate over next few years, says ADB report

The Bangladesh economy is expected to make good progress and grow at the rate of 7 per cent per annum over the next few years, said the Annual Report '96 of the Asian Development Bank, reports BSS.

The Bank is happy to note that the government is taking measures to strengthen the financial system so that the monetary policy becomes a potent tool for macroeconomic management.

The report, focused on the country's performance, inflationary trends, development in the external sector and major changes in domestic policies, and said Bangladesh government is trying to keep the overall budget deficit at 5.7 per cent.

See Page 12 Col 7

Depression over Bay likely

At least one depression is likely to be formed over the Bay of Bengal during the current month, a long-range Met Office forecast said yesterday, reports UNB.

Weathermen also forecast moderate flood in Brahmaputra basin during the period.

South-western monsoon is likely to be activated 2-3 times during the current month.

The Met Office said Chittagong division is likely to experience the highest 650-700 mm rain against normal 690 mm.

Sylhet division may have 500-550 mm rain against normal 528 mm. Barisal 450-500 against normal 505. Rajshahi 370-420 against normal 385. Dhaka 350-400 against normal 386 and Khulna division 320-370 mm against normal 358 mm.

Gold worth Tk 26 lakh seized at Ctg Airport

CHITTAGONG, July 2: Smuggled gold worth about Tk 26 lakh was seized by customs from a passenger arriving here from Dubai today, airport sources said.

The passenger, Md Yusuf, was handed over to Port thana. Airport customs said the smuggled gold weighing 4.4 kg was kept in perfume packets inside the luggage of Yusuf.

The recovered gold included 230 tolas of gold bars and 659 golden rings.

40 injured as BNP, BCL activists clash at Barisal

BARISAL, July 2: At least 40 persons were injured in a clash between BNP and BCL activists at Sadar Road here this evening.

During the one-and-a-half hour clash, one restaurant, a cinema hall, the BNP office, Jubad office and a vehicle of the PDB were ransacked.

Two offices were set on fire. Police lobbed teargas shells to bring the situation under control.

Seven police were also injured, police said.

The BNP later brought out a torch procession in support of tomorrow's hartal.

By-polls: Wahab Khan declared officially elected

The Election Commission in a gazette notification yesterday declared BNP candidate Abdul Wahab Khan elected in the by-election Manikganj-3 constituency, an Election Commission press release said in Dhaka last night.

Inside Today Article

Events of Importance
 Column: Frankly Speaking
 by Faruq Choudhury
 Page 4

Focus
 Can mini paper mills be viable?
 Page 5

Business
 Development work of Korean EPZ to begin in Ctg in Oct
 13-point fall in DSE index
 Pages 6, 7

Hasina, Hashimoto hold talks Japanese aid for Ganges barrage, Rupsha bridge & Mongla port likely

From M Anwarul Haq



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Japanese counterpart Ryutaro Hashimoto greet each other at the latter's residence in Tokyo yesterday. —PID photo

TOKYO, July 2: Bangladesh and Japan today underlined their desire to break new grounds to strengthen further the existing ties between the two countries through expanded economic cooperation.

Tokyo indicated that it was willing to fund construction of the Rupsha Bridge and development of Mongla Port. It also expressed its desire to extend technical support for feasibility study for the proposed Ganges Barrage.

This was disclosed at an official briefing after the formal talks between Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and the visiting Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The Japanese premier hosted a lunch at his residence where the discussions took place for nearly two hours. The talks were also participated by senior officials of the two sides. The Bangladesh side included Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr SA Samad, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobor.

See Page 12 Col 1

Post-accord rehabilitation PCP activists joining Shantibahini to avail of package

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, July 2: A large number of activists of Parbatya Chhatra Parishad (PCP) have reportedly crossed the border to avail of rehabilitation facilities offered to Shantibahini under the proposed peace accord, sources concerned said.

Seeing prospect of a peace accord between the Parbatya Chhatra Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and the government during the next round of talks on July 14, the PCP activists are enlisting themselves in the Shantibahini, they said.

The government has offered to rehabilitate all Shantibahini following an agreement with PCJSS. The PCP faction favouring PCJSS president Shantu Larma, are now taking advantage of this, the sources said.

Meanwhile, no case of surrender by Shantibahini was recorded in the past five months, an official source said.

The last case of surrender by two Shantibahini, with one LMG and a rifle, was recorded on February 5 this year.

Expecting a peace accord the Shantibahini are not interested in taking advantage of the general amnesty.

The general amnesty was declared for Shantibahini on October 3, 1983 and it has been extended 12 times so far, the official source said.

So far 1198 Shantibahini surrendered to the security forces with arms and ammunition.

See Page 12 Col 6

BNP-called 8-hour hartal today

By Staff Correspondent

An eight-hour countrywide hartal is to begin at 6 am today, called by the opposition BNP to register its protest against what it termed an anti-people budget.

Today's hartal is the second one called by BNP since Awami League came to power in June last year. The first one was on March 23 this year.

The hartal call was given by BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan earlier at a press briefing on June 29, a day prior to the passage of the national budget for fiscal 1997-98 by the Jatiya Sangsad. BNP will also hold a post-hartal rally in Dhaka.

See Page 12 Col 4

AL questions efficacy of BNP's hartal call

Ruling Awami League general secretary and LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday questioned the efficacy of BNP's hartal call and said it is designed to create chaos and confusion in the country, reports UNB.

In his reaction to the today's 8-hour hartal, Zillur said hartal is a democratic right of the people but the BNP has no logical ground behind calling this hartal.

He said in the past his party also called hartals on national causes to protect democracy, people's voting rights or to protest repression on the people.

Referring to the BNP's hartal call, he said:

See Page 12 Col 8

Bombs hurled at BNP procession in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 2: Two hand bombs were thrown at the torch procession of BNP this evening. The procession was brought out in support of tomorrow's half-day hartal.

The BNP blamed the Awami League the incident. The AL denied the charge.

Japanese entrepreneurs urged to invest, set up pvt EPZ

TOKYO, July 2: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today invited the Japanese entrepreneurs to invest in textile and other labour intensive industries in Bangladesh and set up a private export processing zone exclusively for their own, reports agencies.

"I urge you to come to Bangladesh, invest... this will help us balance our trade relations," she said at an investment conference at New Otani Hotel here today.

Hasina said the government is making efforts to attract Japanese investors as Japan is the most valued and important development partner of the country.

Mentioning the signing of Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement with Japan, the Bangladesh Prime Minister said bilateral relations depend a lot on trade these days.

"We have put the item of economic development on the top of our administration and diplomacy agenda. We need to go ahead. Our targets are to create millions of jobs and attract billions of dollars in foreign investment."

The days of aid dependence are fast drawing to a close for Bangladesh, she said adding, "specific and targeted public policy is the need of the hour, and that is exactly what we hope to provide."

JETRO seminar for Bangladesh businessmen

TOKYO, July 2: The Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) organised a seminar for Bangladesh business delegation accompanying the prime minister here today, reports BSS.

Kondo, Executive Director of JETRO, made the welcome remarks and laid emphasis on the market research hoping that it would make the market go ahead.

"We have moulded the investment policy with the great sense of urgency," she said urging the Japanese entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh.

The prime minister said the country needs to create the base for using the vast pool of talented manpower. "We should also require to allow the private sector to play a much augmented role and go for more local and direct foreign investment."

See Page 12 Col 7

2 murdered, one killed in bomb explosion in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were murdered and another was killed in a bomb explosion in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Tawhidul Islam alias Rajib, 22, sustained fatal injuries when an unidentified gang shot him in Rampura at about 10:30 am. He died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

The gang of about three called Rajib, a resident of Nayatola area, from a fast food shop near Wapda Road in Rampura.

The attackers shot him to a nearby place and shot him from close range. The motive behind the attack is not clear.

See Page 12 Col 8

Snatchers throw bomb at police in city: 2 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

Two police men were injured as snatchers threw bombs at them in the city on Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Police said a team of Tejgaon thana chased the muggers group which snatched several people near Kawan Bazar area at about 11 pm Tuesday.

The snatchers tried to flee the scene throwing bombs at the police personnel. ASI Tariqul Karim and constable Abdul Karim were injured in the bomb attack.

The police team, however, caught two of the snatchers who were reportedly injured as they were people from the bazar area beat them up, police said.

The snatchers Nurul Islam and Ayub Ali were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Injured police personnel were given first-aid.



A BNP procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for today's hartal. —Star photo

Road barricade protesting waterlogging

By Staff Correspondent

A group of angry people yesterday barricaded the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Kulia KB Bazar. Gazipur for more than two hours yesterday protesting waterlogging in the area reportedly caused by a garments and fisheries complex stopping natural flow of rain water.

The angry people also prevented the workers and staff of Fortuna Group's three garment units and fisheries complex from going inside which led to a shutdown in production, the management said.

The trouble began at 7 am and police cleared the road at about 11 am.

See Page 12 Col 1

Flood hits Rangpur

By Staff Correspondent

RANGPUR, July 2: The Teesta river flood control embankment at Salapac in Gangachhara thana under the district had developed breaches at different points due to onrush of flood waters and downpour, reports BSS.

A large number of houses in the char areas of Gangachhara thana were damaged by the flood, thana nirbahi office, said today.

The road link between Rangpur and Kishoreganj thana under Nilphamari district snapped as a by-pass road in the Rangpur-Kishoreganj highway partially washed away.

Overall flood situation is, however, improving in the district as the Teesta river water level receding. Water Development Board source said.

Pakistan test fires missile

ISLAMABAD, July 2: Pakistan has successfully test fired a medium range missile with a target range of upto 800 kms, a leading Pakistani newspaper reported today, says PTI.

The widely circulated Urdu daily, Nawa-e-Waqt quoting reliable sources said that the third in the 'Hataf' series of missile has been successfully test fired with a much enhanced range.

Pakistan had earlier developed Hataf-1 with a range of 100 kms and Hataf-2 with a range of 200 kms.

See Page 12 Col 2

Businessman robbed, stabbed in city

A businessman was stabbed and robbed of Tk 3.25 lakh in front of a bank at Khilgaon in the city yesterday, police said, reports UNB.

A group of youngmen boarding a scooter stabbed Khandaker Muslehuddin and snatched a bag with the money as soon as he came out from Sonali Bank Taltola branch at about 10 am.

Fresh violence in Gaza, WB: Palestinian killed

DEIR EL BALAH, Gaza Strip, July 2: A Palestinian was killed by Israeli army gunfire Wednesday in a clash over land near a Jewish settlement, witnesses and hospital officials said, reports AP.

Some 200 Palestinians began throwing stones after bulldozers cleared land near the Gush Katif settlement. Soldiers opened fire to disperse the stone throwers, killing 18-year-old Maher Assar, said doctors at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City.

In the West Bank town of Hebron, Israeli snipers perched on rooftops fired live rounds at Palestinian rioters to stop a deluge of stones and firebombs.

Four Palestinians, including a 12-year-old boy, were wounded by live fire in the legs, and 13 were hit by rubber bullets.

The injured were given first aid at a makeshift clinic in an ambulance, a stretcher and two nurses — set up in a nearby gas station.

Wednesday marked the first time in weeks that Israeli troops used live ammunition in Hebron, and signalled a further escalation.

The Hebron violence was triggered by a Jewish extremist who over the weekend put up posters in Hebron hurting the religious sentiments of Muslims.

"They have gone too far with their humiliations of the Muslims," said one 18-year-old Palestinian as he stuffed rags into gas-filled bottles to prepare firebombs.

Protesters chanted "Allahu Akbar," or God is Great, the Muslim battle cry, as they ran toward Israeli troops in riot gear, hurling rocks and firebombs. Soldiers initially fired rubber bullets, then several live rounds.

In response to the anti-Muslim leaflet, merchants in the city observed a commercial strike Wednesday. Shopkeepers elsewhere in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were to close their businesses for an hour.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
ঢাকা

মূল্য সংযোজন কর (মুসক) নিবন্ধন সংক্রান্ত বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মূল্য সংযোজন কর (মুসক) যোগ্য পণ্যের উৎপাদক, গ্ৰহীতকারক বা বিক্রেতা ও করযোগ্য সেবা প্রদানকারীদের মূল্য সংযোজন কর (মুসক) নিবন্ধন প্রদানে অগ্রয়োজনীয় দীর্ঘসূত্রতা নিরসনের লক্ষ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে সারসরি সংশ্লিষ্ট কাঠমস, এন্ট্রাইজ ও মুসক বিতাপীয় দপ্তরে যোগাযোগ করার পরামর্শ দেয়া হলো। মুসক নিবন্ধন করার বাধ্যবাধকতা আছে এমন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানকে এইসব বিতাপীয় দপ্তরে প্রাপ্য নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফর্ম (মুসক-৬) যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে তা এই বিতাপীয় দপ্তরেই জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। এই ফর্ম কিভাবে পূরণ করতে হবে সে বিষয়ে একটি লিখিত নির্দেশিকাও সংশ্লিষ্ট বিতাপীয় দপ্তর সরবরাহ করবে। তাছাড়া, প্রয়োজনবোধে সংশ্লিষ্ট মুসক কর্মকর্তাগণও এই বিষয়ে ব্যক্তিগত পরামর্শ প্রদান করবেন।

০২। সারাদেশে মোট ৬ (ছয়) টি কমিশনারেটের অধীনে ৩০ (ত্রিশ) টি বিতাপীয় অফিস আছে যেগুলো মুসক নিবন্ধন প্রদান করে থাকে। জনসাধারণের সুবিধার্থে ঢাকা, চট্টগ্রাম, রাজশাহী, বরিশাল, সিলেট ও খুলনা শহরে অবস্থিত মুসক বিতাপীয় অফিসের ত্রিকানা নিম্নে উল্লেখ করা হলোঃ

ঢাকা মহানগর	সুব্রাপ্ত বিতাপ	পাজীপুর বিতাপ
লালবাগ বিতাপ	৭৪ সিদ্ধেশ্বরী সাকুল্যার রোড	বাড়ি নং-১২, রোড নং-৩২, সেটর-৭,
৭৪ নর্থরোড কুতের গলি, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২১৭।	মালিবাগ, ঢাকা-১২১৭।	উত্তরা মডেল টাউন, ঢাকা।
ফোন : ৪১৩৪৮৮	ফোন : ৪১৩৪৮৮	ফোন : ৮৯৬৬৭৩
মতিঝিল বিতাপ	বোহাগপুর বিতাপ	চট্টগ্রাম মহানগর
বাড়ি নং-৪৬, রোড নং-১৮ (নতুন) ৪১/৩ সিদ্ধেশ্বরী রোড, ঢাকা-১২১৭	বাড়ি নং-৪৬, রোড নং-১৮ (নতুন) ৯৭ (নতুন), ঢাকা-১২০৫।	চাঁদপুর বিতাপ
ফোন : ৪১১৪৯৩	ফোন : ৩২৩৬২২	রোড নং : ০১, সিডি আ/এ
সিদ্ধিরগঞ্জ বিতাপ	নারায়ণপুর বিতাপ	আগাবাগ, চট্টগ্রাম : ৪১০০
সিদ্ধিরগঞ্জ পলি মজিব মার্কেট সিদ্ধিরগঞ্জ	১৪ মোকরোবা রোড, নগর থানা, নারায়ণপুর।	ফোন : ৭২৩৩৬৪
ফোন : ৮৩৬৭৭৭	ফোন : ৭৫৪৩০, ৬১০০৮৮	কোম্পানী বিতাপ
তেজগাঁও বিতাপ	টঙ্গী বিতাপ	স্টেড রোড, সদরঘাট, চট্টগ্রাম।
বাড়ি নং-০৭, ব্রক-ডি, রোড-১৭ কনালী, ঢাকা।	বাড়ি নং-১০, রোড নং-৪ সেটর-৪	ফোন : ৬১২৮১৮
ফোন : ৬০৬৮২৩	উত্তরা মডেল টাউন, ঢাকা।	খুলনা মহানগর
কোম্পানী বিতাপ	কোম্পানী বিতাপ	খুলনা বিভাগ
বাড়ি নং : ৪৬, রোড নং-১৮ (নতুন) ৯৭ (নতুন), ঢাকা-১২১৭।	ফোন : ৮৯৬৬০২	কাঠমস হাট, বাগিশপুর, খুলনা।
ফোন : ৩১১৪৪৬, ৬০৫১৪৫	বিহপু বিতাপ	ফোন : ৬১৭০১
সিলেট শহর	বাড়ি নং-৪৫, পূর্ব তেজগুরি বাজার, ফার্মপেট, ঢাকা।	রাজশাহী শহর
সিলেট বিভাগ	ফোন : ৯০০৬৭৩	রাজশাহী বিভাগ
ব্রক-এ, বাড়ি-৪৫, মেইন রোড, শাহজাদালাল উপশহর, সিলেট	বরিশাল শহর	হাতেম খাঁ, রাজশাহী।
ফোন : ০৮২১/৭৬০৪২৩	বরিশাল বিভাগ	ফোন নং : ২৩৩০
এ ছাড়া, বগুড়া, কুষ্টিয়া, যশোর, পাবনা, দিনাজপুর, ঝংপুর, ময়মনসিংহ, ফেনী, কক্সবাজার, নরসিংদী ও কুমিল্লা জেলা শহরে মূল্য সংযোজন করের বিতাপীয় অফিস আছে।	গোরাটাস দাস রোড, বরিশাল	
	ফোন : ০৪৩১/৩৭৬৬	

বিতাপীয় অফিসের পাশাপাশি জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের মূল্য সংযোজন কর অনুবিভাগে নিবন্ধন সেল থেকেও মুসক নিবন্ধন প্রদানের ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হয়েছে। এজন্য দ্বিতীয় সচিব (মুসক), মুসক নিবন্ধন সেল, কক নং ৩২৭, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড, সেকেন্ড বাগিচা, ঢাকা এই ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে। উল্লেখ্য যে নিবন্ধনের জন্য কোনো প্রকার টাকা বা ফিস দিতে হয় না। কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে নিবন্ধনকারীকে অবহিত করুন।

আজী আহমদ
 প্রথম সচিব (মুসক)
 টেলিফোন নং : ৪০৭৬০৫

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 G-1770