

Happy New Year
 Admission continues for Play Group-Nursery & KG in the **Little's Cottage** (Only 1 yr KG)
Admission is also going on for the senior section
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Namaz-e-Janaza and Qul Khawani

The Namaz-e-Janaza of Late Architect Raziul Ahsan Khandaker will be held today (Thursday) after Johr prayers at the Central Mosque of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). He will be buried after the Namaz-e-Janaza at Banani graveyard.

The Qul Khawani of Late Architect Raziul Ahsan Khandaker will be held tomorrow (Friday) at Dhansiri Apartments after Asr prayers. All his relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend.

C-03

ADP to miss target

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 tion of the ADP allocation. These ministries get 85 per cent of total outlay.

These 16 had also performed badly in the first quarter of this year. These ministries and divisions spent Tk 1311 crore or 12 per cent of their total allocation, down from Tk 1438 crore or 13 per cent for the corresponding period last year.

The objective of identifying these ministries/divisions as important, is being frustrated," the Planning Commission commented on their performance.

Statistics show that four of the major ministries had utilised five per cent or less of their project aid allocation, seven used eight per cent or less and only nine used 12 per cent or less of their allocation. Only seven ministries could use 12 per cent or more of their allocation.

Important among these are: Water Resources Ministry (eight per cent), Rural Development and Cooperative Division (five per cent), Primary and Mass Education Division (three per cent), Family Welfare Wing of Health and Family Welfare Ministry (seven per cent), Post and Telecommunications Ministry (zero).

According to the approved project implementation schedule, 408 projects were supposed to be completed by June, 1998. But information supplied by the ministries and divisions concerned show that only 277 projects have been slated to be completed during this period. The rest 131 projects will now

spill over to 1998-99, delaying their completion by one year.

The Planning Commission has suggested that steps have to be taken to complete all these 408 projects supposed to be completed this fiscal year as per the implementation schedule. If needed, their implementation programme will have to be revised and sufficient funds ensured in the ADP.

It was also found that 31 per cent of the projects in the ADP have not yet been approved by the ECNEC.

The Planning Commission has suggested that the ministries and divisions which are lagging behind the national average of spending should speed up their pace of implementation.

Welcome '98

From page 1
 six countrywide general strikes and 99 local-level strikes, mainly spearheaded by the BNP.

The chances of an rapprochement with the opposition remains elusive as the distance between the two sides are widening.

The parliament meets in mid-January but the opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia, has said she will not join it until the government scraps the accord on the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Government leaders have hinted at amending the CHT agreement if the opposition returns to parliament.

Opposition BNP accuses the government of compromising national sovereignty and unitary character of the government, leaving the interests of Bangalee settlers in the hills vulnerable, providing more powers to the tribals, something the government denies.

The parliament will take up the CHT accord to give it a legal cover and also discuss a bill on Village Council. Village council elections are likely in February.

The year also ended with the completion of Union Council elections for rural local governments, leaving at least 35 persons were killed and more than 500 injured during the month-long elections.

The economy remained sluggish despite a 5.7 percent growth last fiscal, ending in June, 1996.

A slumping foreign exchange reserve hovering around 1.6 billion dollars, less than expected harvest this winter, about 7 percent devaluation of the currency, making imports expensive and chronic shortage of power cast a shadow on the expected 6 percent growth.

The only silver line in the new year is an expected deal with oil companies for exploring the country's rich reserves of natural gas, with hints of oil finds that Sheikh Hasina says would usher the country into prosperity.

KUL KHWANI

Merut, Selima Khatoon, wife of Late Enayet admed of Jona Hatpukur Under Hooghly district died of old age complications on Monday December 29, 1997. She was 87 years old. Selima Khatoon came from the renowned Ali family of Tazpur (West Bengal). Her older brother was Syed Wazed Ali, a famous literary figure of pre-partition India. She had three sons and two daughters. Her Kul Khwani will be held on January 1, 1998 at 154/A, East Rajabazar, Tejjagon, Dhaka after Asar prayer. Tel. 819882

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