

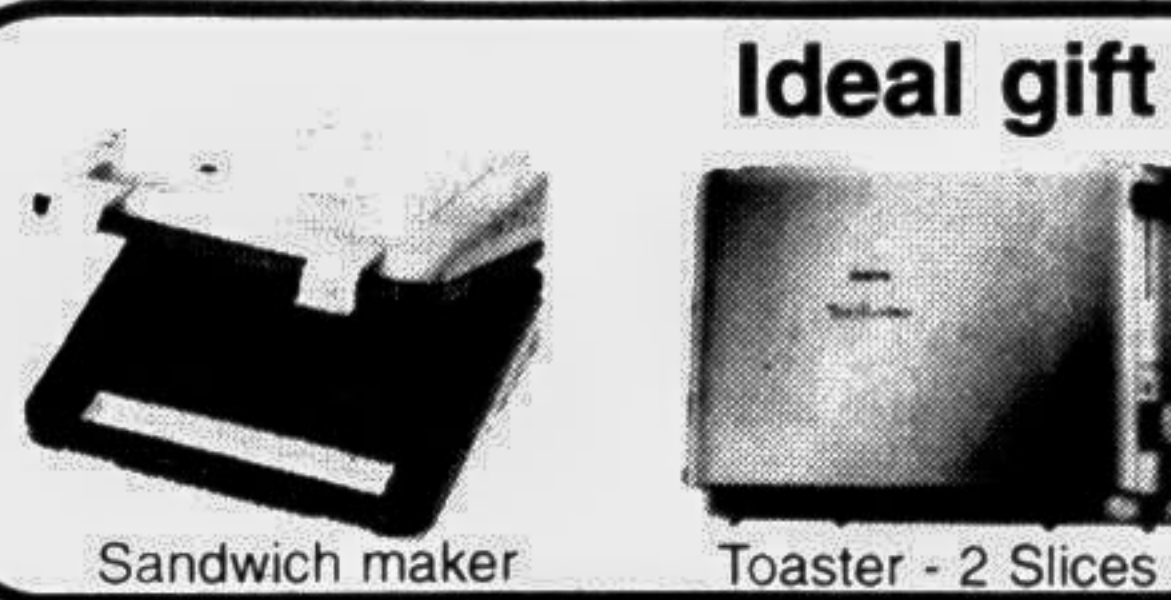


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PHILIPS

Tap technology to fight poverty: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the scientists, technologists and engineers of South Asia to transform their innovations and endeavours for the welfare of the people, reports UNB.

"I am confident your efforts can help emancipate people from the curse of poverty," she said addressing the inaugural session of the SAARC Engineers Forum at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the morning.

Hasina said the diploma engineers are directly involved in the implementation process of development programmes. It is through them the people get benefits of science and technology.

Referring to the objectives of the SAARC, she said the basic aim of the forum is to speed up the process of economic and social development of 1.24 billion people of the member countries.

Hasina said some specific proposals she made at the last Colombo SAARC summit were unanimously accepted to alleviate poverty and ensure welfare of this region.

She said meaningful cooperation in the field of science and technology is imperative to accelerate the pace of development.

"Without wasting time, we must begin to act now to prepare ourselves for the new century," she said, adding the posterity must be enabled to make South Asia prosperous and meet the challenge of time.

Scientists, technologists and engineers must take the vital

initiatives to this end, the prime minister said assuring of the government's support to their efforts.

SAARC's priority, she said, lies on research and exchange of information in the field of biotechnology, genetic engineering, energy modeling techniques, utilising wind energy and low cost housing.

The Prime Minister said the last Colombo summit put special emphasis on biotechnology. South Asia with its vast reservoir of bio-diversity and tropical climate has substantial potential for bio-industry development.

Kibria: Stakeholders

From one set of policymakers to another set without assessing their effective outcomes or relevance of these reforms to the specific concerns of the majority of the citizens.

Criticisms over the years about this process had not made any change in the process.

"It is generally recognised that a wide range of reforms in policy are needed in most developing countries including Bangladesh. But unless such reforms are grounded in a process of consultation with those at the receiving end of the reform process and emerge out of a political consensus built up within the political mainstream of the country, such reforms, however worthy they may be, may prove difficult to implement or if implemented may not be sustainable," he said.

participatory approach to reviewing structural adjustment is not a substitute for solid hard economic research on the subject.

Prof Mahmud said SAPRI should identify and dispel popular fallacies about reform outcomes and should bring to light issues important to people's lives which remain neglected in the evaluation of reforms.

Pierre Landell-Mills reforms are often painful and politically costly because these are taken up by the countries when they are in crisis.

"Policy making is generally taken in an atmosphere of distrust and actions taken on such policies are politically contested," said Landell-Mills. "Participation of all parties concerned is essential for an understanding of the reform process. It is important to design and implement policy and programs taking the line ministries along."

He said many of the structural adjustment programmes were not implemented in Bangladesh and since early 1990s, pace of reform almost stalled and also reversed in some cases.

Hamidullah Khan joins BNP

Wing Commander (Retd) Hamidullah Khan, a former Parliament member, joined BNP, reports UNB.

Hamidullah Khan met BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia at her Cantonment residence recently and formally joined the party, said a press release yesterday.

Prof Sobhan said the governments must understand that their accountability for the outcome of these reforms lies not just to their development partners but even so with those who elected them to public office in the expectation that the government would improve their conditions of life.

Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud in his statement said reforms needed to be a process of learning-by-doing, where looking at the actual reform outcomes are important for policymakers.

He said SAPRI would help policy analysts to have more insights into the ground-level realities while the stakeholders can be better informed about the logic and rationale of reforms.

He, however, warned that a



THE "BLACK CAPS" ARE HERE: The New Zealand team pictured on arrival at the Sonargaon Hotel last night to take part in the Wills International Cup. —Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Kiwis arrive

A 14-member New Zealand cricket team, led by Stephen Fleming, arrived in the city last night to take part in the Wills International Cup cricket tournament beginning at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on October 24, reports BSS.

They will take on Zimbabwe, who arrived here on October 18, in the inaugural match of the day-and-night knock-out tournament.

The members of the team are: Stephen Fleming (captain), Geoff Allott, Mark Bailey, Simon Doull, Mathee Horne, Shayne O'Connor, Alex Tait, Paul Wiseman, Nathan Aslie, Matthew Bell, Chris Harris, Craig McMillan, Adam Parore and Daniel Vettori.

The team is accompanied by John Graham (manager), Steve Rixon (coach), Mark Harrison (physiotherapist), Ashley Ross (technical adviser) and Gilbert Enoke (player coordinator).

WC tickets elusive

From Page 1

They picked the five from the scene and kept them under their custody. A case was filed with Motijheel police.

Police stepped up security in front of the 12 branches of the Bank.

The 12 IFIC city branches from where tickets are being sold are Motijheel, Federation (FBCCI building), Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Shantinagar, Islampur, Moulvibazar, Bangshal, Elephant Road, Kawran Bazar, Malibagh and Naya Palta.

All the nine Test playing nations — Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the West Indies and Zimbabwe — will take part in the day and night knock-out tournament.

Nearly three lakh tickets for gallery, VIP, Club House will be sold from the bank counters on first-come-first-serve basis.

"IFIC Bank confirmed that around 80 per cent tickets sold

in the first five hours," said Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) President and Deputy Minister for Shipping Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

Quoting bank officials, he said people's demand was very high for tickets of the matches involving the sub-continental giants — India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Bank officials said there was comparatively a low demand for the inaugural match between New Zealand and Zimbabwe on October 24 and a quarter-final between England and South Africa the following day.

After yesterday's experience, the BCB president said, the Board would consider introducing the lottery-system, followed in World Cup, for any such tournament in future.

He hoped the earning from ticket sales for the first-ever such knock-out cricket tournament will be around Tk 3.75 crore.

Practice sessions of England and Zimbabwe were hampered due to bad weather in the city, he said and quoted Met office to add that the weather condition might bring in to improve from today.

Bangladesh and England are to play an exhibition match at BKSP today.

Ctg Port

From Page 1

The programme was announced at a general meeting of the Council. Dock Jatiyabadi Srarnik Dal president Haji Mohammad Yunus presided over the meeting.

The meeting observed that no step has been taken to give incentive bonus within 80 days of signing of the agreement, fulfil the vacant posts and purchase of 142 equipment.

LPG gas

From Page 1

added.

The Kailashita LPG plant and a bottling plant were installed at a total cost of Tk 54 crore at the Golganj thana headquarters.

The plants were kept shut down since July 1997 due to delay in marketing of the LPG. The BPC took several months to finalise the price of LPG.

The BPC is also conducting a probe into the allegations of irregularities and corruption in the import of 35,000 cylinders which were brought from Malaysia in 1997 at a high price, sources said.

The BPC has already supplied 2000 cylinders to the three companies for marketing LPG in remote areas in the four districts.

The LPG is being produced here by using the Natural Gas Liquid (NGL) from the Kailashita Gas Field, nearby. It is the first of its kind in the country, the official said adding that the Eastern Refinery in Chittagong had been producing the LPG by using crude oil.

Ershad

From Page 1

Ahmed as a conspirator." Ershad said quoting from his much-talked-about book Facts and Documents.

He said Tofael himself never denied the allegation made by one of his own party colleagues.

He told a questioner that "I am not saying anything about the on-going trial of Bangladesh killing."

He said the government can set up an enquiry commission with a High Court judge after the verdict of Bangladesh murder case to find out the persons who were behind the killing.

The Jatiya Party Chairman welcomed the decision of the prime minister about the trial of all killings and demanded action against the conspirators and the supporters of the murder of Bangladesh.

About the allegation of his own involvement in the killings of August 15 and November 3, 1975, Ershad said he was not in the country at that time.

Only for four days, he said, he came to the country on June 26, 1975 receiving the death news of his father.

About the arrest of three opposition leaders in connection with the Jail Killing Case, Ershad said, "Probably government has some proof about their involvement in the killing. Law will look into that."

KEPZ

From Page 1

installed will include backward linkage industries in textile, readymade garments, shoe manufacturing, hi-tech, agro based, chemical and machinery, he added.

These will generate 1,50,000 direct and indirect jobs, he said.

Sung also informed that Youngone Group so far invested 80 million US dollars in Bangladesh.

Youngone started its operation in 1991 with an initial investment of 15,000 US dollars. In the last fiscal year Youngone recorded a turnover of 250 million US dollars, he told reporters.

UNB adds: Sung said frequent hartal and slow port activities are greatly hampering foreign investment in Bangladesh.

He pointed out five problems which are discouraging the foreign entrepreneurs from investment. These are: Hartal, dilly-dally tactics in the ports, frequent power failure, labour unrest and bureaucratic tangle in decision making.

He informed that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the YAM complex of the Youngone Group at CEPZ tomorrow.

Khaleda

From Page 1

ment with the opposition chief.

When approached yesterday evening, Khaleda Zia told her two colleagues concerned that there was "now no scope" for withdrawing the already announced hartal. She, however, told them that she would not announce any agitation programme during the cricket tournament if the government "refrains from disturbing the BNP during the hartal".

The cricket tournament will kick off on October 24 and end November 1.

DCC mayoral polls

From Page 1

party hierarchy.

Different names are also being discussed in other parties like the Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami. But the aspirants in those parties have not been as active as those in Awami League and BNP.

Dhaka city Mayor Mohammad Hanif held his first meeting with the Commissioners on May 4, 1994. So his five-year tenure expires on May 3, 1999. As per law, the elections must be held within 180 days after the expiry of the tenure.

The government has increased the number of Wards in the four city corporations from 192 to 223. DCC's number of Wards has been increased to 100 from 90. Chittagong City Corporation's (CCC) to 51 from 41. Khulna City Corporation's (KCC) to 37 from 31 and Rajshahi City Corporation's (RCC) wards have been increased to 35 from 30.

At present, Deputy Commissioners of the respective districts are doing the delimitation of the Wards. Sources in the Election Commission (EC) said, delimitation of wards in Dhaka city has been completed and the DC's office will wait until October 26 to accept objections or comments, if any, as regards the new boundaries of the 100 Wards.

The government has also increased the number of Wards for female Commissioners to 33

Chanchal

From Page 1

exemplary punishment to the real culprits "whoever he may be".

When contacted today, Khulna metropolitan police commissioner M Anwarul Iqbal said "nothing but the intra-party feud" was the cause of his death as it appeared from different sources as well as the FIR lodged by mother of the victim.

Meanwhile, a day-long hartal in the city passed off without any untoward incident. The BNP-called hartal paralysed normal life and activity in mills and factories, banks, businesses and autonomous bodies. Schools, shops and bazaars remained closed during hartal hours.

BDR, armed police, metropolitan police patrolled the city streets. Supporters of ruling AL were also very much visible in the streets till noon while BNP activists brought out a procession only in the evening demanding arrest of the killers.

Govt explains tax steps

The government has constructed the news items published in a section of the press yesterday about the imposition of surcharge and an increase in supplementary tax through promulgation of the Post-Flood Rehabilitation (Internal Resources Mobilisation) Ordinance 1998, an official handout said, reports BSS.

It said the surcharge was imposed on some commodities and services at a reduced rate.

But the rate of imposition of surcharge was not properly published.

To remove the confusion in this regard, the government gave the following clarification: Only four per cent surcharge has been imposed on the total quantity of recoverable supplementary tax from those commodities in which supplementary tax had already been imposed excepting powdered milk, crude petroleum and petroleum products and some other products of natural gas. No rate has been increased in the existing supplementary tax.

Under the Post-Flood Rehabilitation (Internal Resources Mobilisation) Ordinance 1998,

five per cent surcharge has been imposed on the total accumulated bill of telex, fax, telephone and e-mail, two per cent surcharge payable on the interest or profit of savings certificates and two per cent surcharge payable on the interest or profit on term and fixed deposit in the banks and other financial institutions.

Under the ordinance, the rate of surcharge on all the documents (dalis) to be registered will be taka 100 each, according to value.

The rate of surcharge payable on the imposed supplementary tax will be four per cent under the VAT law, 1991, excepting powdered milk, crude petroleum and petroleum products and natural gas while the rate of surcharge on the payable bill for issuance of passport and its renewal fees will be 15 per cent.

Both parties

From Page 1

the same time, it said.

While going away, they allegedly damaged telephone set and furniture of the ward commissioner's office.

The BNP press release further said that the same group of youngman also attacked offices of Sonadanga thana unit of JCD and Jubadal and set them on fire without any provocation.

Khulna district and city units of BNP have given a call for observing weeklong programme beginning today in protest against killing of JCD leader.

Meanwhile, leaders of Khulna district and city units of Puja Udjan Parishad have strongly condemned attack on three temples and accused BNP activists for damaging some idols of 'Kalimata'. They demanded arrest of those involved.

Caretakers of the three temples have filed three separate general diaries with Kotwali thana in this connection. The Puja Parishad leaders while addressing a press conference this evening warned of "severe consequences" for hurting their religious sentiment.

New chief of city detective police

By Staff Correspondent

A new deputy commissioner at the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police was appointed yesterday. The post fell vacant when Bazul Karim was sent to the Police Headquarters as an Assistant IG.

Ataf Hussain, now SP in Barisal, was appointed as head of the city's detective police, home ministry officials said yesterday. Hussain belongs to the Bangladesh Civil Service 1973 batch, sources said.

VGf cards

From Page 1

more food aid would be released in coming months.

A meeting between the government and the aid agency representatives in Dhaka planned for later this week will assess the current state of food distribution under VGF (vulnerable group feeding) programme.

The meeting is considered important, especially before the next week's high-profile meeting at the WFP headquarters in Rome.

Responding to Bangladesh's need after the huge crop loss in Aman, donors had earlier assured of giving more food aid for raising the number of VGF cards from 13 lakh to 40 lakh.

The deadline for completing distribution of 40 lakh VGF cards ends today. Earlier, the date was extended twice. The aid givers had told the government they would like to see the process expedited.

"Things are going at good pace now... and if the food distribution is handled properly, there is a bright chance for further rise in aid flow," a donor agency official said.

According to the relief ministry officials, problems in distribution of VGF cards had been sorted out and the best monitoring system has been put in place to stop pilferage of food.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING-1997

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Annual General Meeting of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) will be held at 3:30 p.m. on October 22, 1998 instead of 11:00 a.m. The venue of the meeting will remain unchanged.

All respected members are requested to be present on time.

By order of the Executive Committee
For Secretary General

M. Noorul Quader (1935-1998)

Renowned freedom fighter, Secretary of the Mujibnagar Government, Founder of Garments Industries in Bangladesh, Chairman of Dsh Group of Companies.

CHEHLUM

The CHEHLUM of late M. NOORUL QUADER will be held on Friday 23rd October, 1998 after Asar at 4.30 p.m. at his residence—Road No. 84, Block No. NE(L), House No. 1/B, Gulshan-2. We request all relatives, friends, well-wishers and business colleagues to attend the CHEHLUM and to recite the prayer for the magfarat of the departed soul.

Family Members.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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DCC mayoral polls

from 18 for the upcoming elections in the DCC. In the present set-up, one out of five Wards is reserved for female Commissioners while the new system reserves one out of every three Wards. The female Ward Commissioners are elected by the Ward Commissioners-elect of the 100 Wards. The government has also decided to do the delimitation of the female Wards at a later date.

The EC sources, quoting the 1997 voters' list, said in the 90 Wards of the city, there were about 20,77,696 eligible voters. There are 3,69,115 identity card holders in the DCC area.

The voters' list will have to be updated with the delimitation although the number of voters would not differ much. They said most of the delimitation work was done by "chalking out 100 Wards out of 90".

In the Dhaka city, they tried to include Sultanganj Union (Kamrangirchar area), part of Badda, Satarikul and some other areas in the city corporation but "the Chairmen and their men in the unions" filed a case with the court and "the matter may not be decided in many years to come", sources said.

EC sources said "many new areas would be included in the Chittagong City Corporation." As per the national budget, Tk eight crore has been allocated for the new areas.

On the occasion of the Wills International Cup cricket to be held at Dhaka from Oct 24-Nov 1, 1998

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