

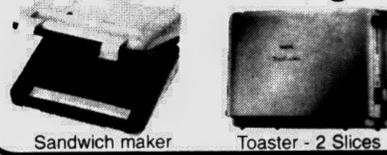
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Let's make things better

PHILIPS

## Market economy for the poor India has a lot to learn from China, says Sen

CALCUTTA, Dec 26: Indian economist, Amartya Sen, who won this year's Nobel Prize for Economics said today India had a lot to learn from China's experience of synthesising the market economy with concerns for the poor, reports Reuters.

"We have to learn from China that it is possible to make very good use of the market economy at the same time not losing some commitment to other ideals," Sen told reporters and officials in the eastern Indian city of Calcutta.

Sen, who grew up in rural Bengal and studied economics at a college in Calcutta before going to Cambridge, is on his first visit to India since he won the Nobel Prize.

Sen said India could emulate China both in market reforms and its achievements in combating illiteracy, disease and deprivation in the pre-reform period.

"It is possible for us to take positive lessons from Chinese history including the market-based lessons (and) non-market-based lessons and combine them with our own democratic

form of government," he said. "It is that degree of synthesis and absorption to which I look forward in the future of India," he added.

Sen said the Socialist policies of pre-reform China built a strong foundation for its market economy to develop.

"To some extent, the Chinese achievement in expanding elementary education, basic healthcare, dealing with land reform... in the pre-reform period before 1979 has made it possible for the post-reform policies to be more successful," he said.

When China launched market reforms, it had the advantage of an educated population and a largely functioning health care system that extended to rural areas, Sen said.

"In some ways, the post-reform Chinese policies are deeply indebted to the pre-reform Chinese policies of the earlier period," he said.

However, Sen emphasised that there were aspects of China, which he did not approve of.

He said India's multi-party democracy which gives a

greater role to individuals and social groups, was a better system.

"I would also emphasise, since I do not wish to be misunderstood, I do not think we have anything to learn from China as far as democracy is concerned. We have a better system," Sen said.

"I don't have any model economy," AP quoting Sen said. "Even in the United States, there has been increasing inequality. Forty million people don't have any healthcare facilities there."

Rather than blindly oppose globalization, Asian nations should "absorb and assimilate the best in every economic model around the world. ... There's no country in the world that does not have any skeleton in its cupboard."

Sen suggested that poor nations such as India should discuss common problems with its neighbours to alleviate poverty. South Asian countries, he said, should reform their land ownership laws and improve education if they want to derive the best out of market economies.



Workers of Purple Apparels Ltd at Elephant Road in the city take to the streets yesterday to denounce termination of an employee (Top), and police guard the factory after a high noon clash between workers and management that left at least 15 persons injured.

—Star photos by Sk Enamul Haq

## Iraq says allied jets attacked its air defence site

BAGHDAD, Dec 26: Iraq said today that "enemy" planes flying from the airspace of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had attacked an Iraqi anti-aircraft unit and were driven off, reports AP.

The official Iraqi News Agency did not identify the nationality of the aircraft, but it usually uses the word "enemy" for the United States and Britain. Some US warplanes are based in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and Britain also stations aircraft in Kuwait.

In Washington, US Defence Department spokesman Glenn Flood said the United States had "no involvement in the alleged incident." In London, no British Defence Ministry spokesman was available for comment.

The agency said that at 11:15 am (08:15 GMT) a formation of warplanes "attacked one of our air defence sites, which confronted it and forced it to drop

its load randomly."

The report did not say where the apparent attack took place and gave no other details.

Today's report was the second such incident reported by the Iraqi News Agency since the United States and Britain began four days of air attacks against Iraq on Dec 16 in a bid to punish Baghdad for its alleged obstruction of UN weapons inspectors.

AFP adds: Iraq today stepped up its campaign for an unconditional and immediate lifting of UN sanctions, insisting it will not accept any compromise plan on arms inspections from China, France or Russia.

"We will accept no other option other than the lifting of the embargo," said the official Al-Qadisiya newspaper.

"Iraq rejects any diversionary tactics, whatever their origin, which aim to keep the embargo in place," added the paper.

The Babel daily, controlled by president Saddam Hussein's son Uday, hammered home the message that sanctions imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait must end without discussion.

"Our people, who are still healing their wounds following the imperialist-Zionist aggression, will accept nothing but the lifting of the embargo, it is the goal for which we will fight and sacrifice ourselves."

Iraq's parliament Speaker Sadun Hammadi called for all Arab countries to ignore the

embargo, as he set off for the Jordanian capital Amman for a meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) today.

"Iraq will stress the need for a total lifting of the embargo by Arab countries and will ask Arab parliamentary leaders to take decisions obliging their governments to act," he told the official INA news agency.

Babel also said he was expecting "nothing good" to come out of efforts by China, Russia and France to push for an overhaul of UN arms inspections, and criticised the three countries for not doing more to avert last week's four nights of US and British air strikes.

## Gayeshwar to be made Jubo Dal president

A new central committee of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, the youth front of BNP, will be announced soon to strengthen the organisation, reports UNB.

Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, the current general secretary, is likely to be made president replacing Mirza Abbas, Khairul Kabir Khokan, former DUCSU general secretary, has been tipped as general secretary of Jubo Dal.

Party sources said BNP Chairperson Begum Khalea Zia at a meeting on Friday gave green signal to Gayeshwar to prepare for taking over the charge of the party's youth front as its president.

## AL shrugs off

From Page 1  
tant for us to continue to implement the pro-people programmes undertaken by the government," Tofail says and adds: "It is proven that people satisfied with our programmes."

Commenting on the shifting of allegiance by General Ershad's JP, a partner of the AL government, Tofail said: "Ershad is an opportunist. When in problem, he does not take time to surrender. Once the problem is over, he does not hesitate to change his position."

Prime Minister's parliamentary affairs adviser Suranjit Sengupta also refuses to give any importance to a possible anti-government alliance of the opposition parties. One step ahead of his colleagues, Sengupta even refuses to consider them as political parties.

"The BNP and JP, both born of out power, are not political parties as such. It is only natural that they would eventually team up against the AL—a traditional political party committed to democracy," says Sengupta. "Both these parties were ousted from power by mass-upsurge, while their anti-partner—Jamaat—still feels uncomfortable with the nation's independence. Why should we give importance to a possible alliance among these parties?"

According to Sengupta, the nation is "united over the government's flood rehabilitation programmes and its agenda to set up strong local governments at different tiers of the administration."

"The BNP, JP and Jamaat have become irrelevant to the nation, its hopes and aspirations," he says.

"The progressive nationalist forces are our natural allies," Sengupta said, hinting at the small left-leaning parties, when asked whether the AL would look for new friends under the present circumstances.

## DU tense

From Page 1  
"outsiders" and will be declared "persona non-grata" on the campus, they said. None should be allowed to destroy the teacher-student relation by bringing "indiscriminate allegations" against teachers, they said.

They also distributed leaflets among students in which they urged the DU authorities not to indulge in any activity which may hamper investigation into the allegations against teachers and to take action against those who want to spoil the peaceful atmosphere on the campus at the instigation of "outsiders and NGOs".

Meanwhile, the president of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation was allegedly assaulted by some persons while he was preparing to bring out a procession protesting the alleged sexual harassment by teachers.

Chhatra Federation later brought out a procession and held a rally at the main entrance of the Arts Faculty building where the speakers extended support to the movement of students against sexual harassment.

## JP regrouping

From Page 1  
morning.  
"The decision has been made to give a clear hint to the nation that Ershad is to welcome Zafar's return to the party," a JP leader attending the meeting told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, Zafar Imam welcomed the move to take Kazi Zafar back to the party, but opposed the idea of welcoming Shah Moazzem Hossain. Zafar Imam's view was, however, strongly opposed by Kazi Peraz Rashid and Abu Zafar. Eventually, the JP president decided to welcome both the leaders—Kazi Zafar and Shah Moazzem Hossain, meeting sources said.

## BB bows to Beximco

From Page 1  
one account of BICL, the current guarantor of loans.

"Simple interest will be applied on the consolidated loan amount. Separate account will be maintained for the principal amount and interest component."

"The loans would be repaid in instalments as under:  
\* At a rate of Tk one crore per month from January 1, 1998 to December 31, 2000.

\* At a rate of Tk two crore per month from January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2002.

\* At a rate of Tk four crore per month from January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2004.

"The remaining balance (the principal and the interest), if any, is to be repaid at a time within December 31, 2004," according to the new arrangements.

Eighty per cent of the amount deposited would be deducted as principal amount and the rest 20 per cent as interest.

In case of failure to pay three consecutive monthly instalments, the bank will be at liberty to withdraw the concession of simple interest and charge compound interest as per practice.

Interestingly more than four years after owning up the fictitious loans taken by different front organisations and providing guarantee for those, Beximco was disowning those liabilities.

Beximco had claimed in a case filed in October this year

against the Bangladesh Bank, IFIC and Baghkhali Fisheries that the guarantees it provided for the fictitious accounts were "not bank guarantees as understood in the common sense". Bangladesh Bank had detected the fictitious loans in 1993.

Beximco has also obtained a court order which bars the Bangladesh Bank (BB) to include its name as a loan defaulter on the CBI list.

The Beximco Holdings Ltd chairman, Sohel Rahman, in a letter to the IFIC MD on December 22, 1998 informed that the company had instructed its lawyers to withdraw the case it filed against BB and the IFIC Bank Ltd.

Paribesh Parishad

From Page 1  
was also present.

Anybody who would try to spoil the academic atmosphere at the university by taking "provocative programmes" defying the decision will have to answer before the Paribesh Parishad, the meeting decided.

If any allegation is raised against any teacher of the university, the inquiry committee formed by the university authorities will dispose of the matter instantly after investigation, the meeting decided.

The meeting suggested that complaint should be lodged with probe body if there is any specific allegation against any teacher of the university, within 11 days from December 26.

## FBCCI

From Page 1  
long and Agartala. He also proposed sending of trade delegations to those Indian cities.

Panchagarh Chamber president Delwar Hossain suggested that land route be established between Panchagarh of Bangladesh and Darjeeling of West Bengal to facilitate more trade between the two countries.

Madaripur Chamber president Lutfar Rahman Khan said establishing communication links between Bangladesh and other neighbouring and regional countries would help expand business and increase revenue income.

President of Finished Leather Exporters Association MA Sattar Bhuiyan said higher interest on bank loans has frustrated industrialisation. On the other hand, increase of interest on savings has made deposit more profitable and risk-free than investment.

"There is no new industrial ventures which could create job opportunities, but you see more and more apartments and shopping complexes coming up," he said.

Trade body and chamber representatives Idris Ali, SMA Rahman, Delwar Hossain, QM Keramat Ali, SU Haider, Moshleuddin Ahmed, Moinuddin Manik, Ehsanul Karim and Arshad Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

The representatives also pointed to the law and order situation, rent-seeking and extortion of tolls, saying that these are hampering business growth.

## Row over Khaleque

From Page 1  
Denying his role in Khaleque's joining the AL, Hanif also brushed aside Kamal Majumdar's allegation of planting the BNP man as his substitute. The total drama is mysterious. There is a confusion in the AL rank and file about the matter. I have no idea who helped Khaleque join our party."

Khaleque, however, continued his 'secret stay' in the city reportedly under the surveillance of BNP since his drama of joining AL and denial later on Thursday. Since then he has been in hiding.

Khaleque claimed he was coerced into joining the ruling party.

But from his hideout, Khaleque was maintaining contacts with his family and the BNP while the government was still trying to locate him. Last night, a press statement, signed by him, was also faxed from the BNP office.

Family members said Khaleque was safe while some BNP leaders claimed their regained colleague was very much under their control.

Mirpur police said they didn't know the whereabouts of Khaleque.

The ruling party had blamed BNP for hijacking and detaining Khaleque until last night. But BNP said Khaleque returned to them from the government trap.

Although stories have kept on unfolding about the political drama, mystery still shrouds Khaleque's controversial joining as both parties continued owning the "power-hungry" politician.

Yet, both sides are weighing losses and gains from the drama that remained "talk of the town" for the third consecutive day.

Sources in the AL claimed Khaleque staged the drama after his hopes for reward from the government was shattered. Key players in the drama reportedly assured him of "big position". But he realised it was nothing but a "bogus promise" after he met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the sources added.

DCC ward commissioner Ismail Hossain Benu told newsmen on Friday that he and Khaleque joined AL together "voluntarily and willingly". Benu described Khaleque's dramatic turnaround as a result of his frustration.

"Khaleque wanted to know from the prime minister about his position in AL but he was not assured of any such position beforehand. This might have frustrated him," he added. Benu also quoted the PM as telling Khaleque, "What more do you want? You're with me."

But City AL leader and state minister for shipping Mofazzal Hossain Choudhury Maya denied that they promised Khaleque anything.

Maya, who also attended Thursday's event, blamed BNP for hijacking the newcomer in AL. "Government intelligence is trying to know Khaleque's whereabouts... If we had any ill-motive behind Khaleque's joining the AL, we would have kept him under our control," he told The Daily Star.

Quoting his telephonic talks with Khaleque's wife Friday, Maya said they were terribly shocked at the "missing" of Khaleque.

However, Khaleque's son, Latif told The Daily Star last evening, "My father is not staying at home. But we know he's safe somewhere."

City BNP convener Sadek

Hossain Khoka said, "Khaleque phoned me once or twice today. He is all right. Perhaps, he is in hiding."

"But it's not clear if he is hiding apprehending fresh government torture," Khoka told The Daily Star.

"As far as his reputation of being always with the government goes, it won't be surprising if he joins Awami League. But the way he spoke out against the prime minister and DGF, he does not appear telling lies."

Khoka called it a failure of AL that it could not keep Khaleque with them.

Asked to comment on Benu's claim, the BNP leader said the ward commissioner did not belong to his party.

Kamal Majumdar, the AL MP from Khaleque's area, described Thursday's controversial event as follows:

On Thursday morning, Khaleque rang me up and requested to take him to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for joining AL. I took him and Benu to the PMO at around 10.30 am.

After the brief joining ceremony, Khaleque asked the prime minister, "Netri (leader), what's the reward for me?"

"We know you always like to be in the party in power. We've absorbed you in the ruling party. What else do you expect? At the moment, I've posed with you. Go hang the photograph in your drawing room," a smiling PM replied.

A desperate Khaleque then told the PM, "Give me the last chance to contest the next general election from Mirpur as an AL nominee."

"But, you know, (our MP) Kamal is there. We don't promise anything when people join our party," was the PM's reply.

At that stage, the prime minister advised Mayor (Mohammad Hanif, also the city AL President) to induct the newcomer in the AL city unit as its executive member.

Since AL returned to power two-and-half years back, many Awami Leaguers in Mirpur became beneficiaries of Khaleque's illegal land-grabbing. And these people were all for the rotten politician, whose transports are used for smuggling phensidyl in the capital.

**Khaleque's statement**  
Khaleque last night issued a statement, faxed to the press from the BNP office, strongly protesting the statements by Ismail Hossain Benu and Kamal Majumdar, both claiming his joining as voluntary.

"I was with BNP. I'm still with BNP and I'll remain with BNP until my death," he said and reiterated his allegation that the DCFI officials had coerced him into joining the AL.

The two-page statement contained his previous claims about Thursday's joining drama. He also denied having any discussion with Benu and Kamal regarding the event.

## 12 killed as train hits bus in India

NEW DELHI, Dec 26: A train rammmed a bus at a level crossing in eastern India today killing 12 people and injuring six others, domestic news agencies reported, reports AP.

Railway officials said impatient bus passengers, who had been waiting for an "all clear" signal at the crossing, snatched the keys from the guard and forcibly opened the gate to pass through, the Press Trust of India reported.

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