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## Investment in EPZs increases more than 5 times in a yr

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday emphasised on bringing the entire country under industrialisation and setting up export processing zones (EPZs) and industrial parks across the country to spur economic growth, reports UNB.

"Bring the entire country under the development network, particularly the northern region, by setting up EPZs and industrial parks," she said while presiding over the 17th meeting of the BEPZA Board of Governors at her office.

Reviewing the progress of the EPZs, the Prime Minister said that the entire country would have to be brought under EPZs and industrial parks.

She observed that with the construction of Bangabandhu Bridge an ample opportunity has been opened up for setting up new industries, particularly agro-based ones in the northern region, she said. "These areas must be industrialised with utmost speed. With the improvement of communication and supply of gas, there will not be much problem to do so now."

The Prime Minister said her government is providing all sort of incentives and encouraging entrepreneurs to establish industries in the country.

The meeting was informed that during the current finan-

cial year, the investment in EPZs has reached 391 million US dollars from last year's 71 million dollars. The export from EPZs till May this year stood at 632 million dollars, which is 11 per cent more than the previous year.

Employment generation has also increased in the 11 months of the current fiscal year to 81,531 from 11,425 in the previous year. Accumulated investment has increased to 98 per cent, employment generation to 91 per cent and export 172 per cent in the EPZs.

At present, 132 industrial units are engaged in production in Dhaka and Chittagong EPZs, and another 101 units are being set up.

It is expected that within the next two years the number of industries will exceed 200 and 600 million US dollars will be invested. The annual export will stand at 1,000 million dollars from Dhaka and Chittagong EPZs and employment generation will be 120,000.

The meeting was also undertaken for setting up three more EPZs in the country.

Later, the Prime Minister presided over a meeting of the Private EPZ Board of Governors at her office and discussed various issues.

## Beyond the boundary

From Page 1  
be seen was whether Australia could pull off a victory that could put them within sniffing distance of actually redeeming the bookies' faith in their abilities. There was more than just pride at stake.

With New Zealand already assured of a place in the last four, it remained to be seen whether Australia had the wherewithal to deny Zimbabwe their place in the last four. With South Africa winning the toss and opting to bat, the Aussies had their work cut out. The Aussie bowling attack, aside from Glenn McGrath, looks fairly ordinary. Their customary trump card Shane Warne had not been in his elements in this competition. In this match, however, Warne displayed his true colours.

In spite of Herschelle Gibbs, who managed to handle the Aussie attack with aplomb, the rest of the innings struggled for a while against McGrath and a seam attack that was penetrative without being lethal. Kirsten prospered briefly. Cronje died early, while Cullinan flattered to deceive. It was left to Jonty Rhodes and Lance Klusener to take the Aussie attack to the sword and put 271 runs on the board for the Aussies to chase.

Quick wickets were the order of the day, and the South Africans basted blood immediately. With the openers out of the way, Cronje probably had ideas of running through the rest of the order. It was not to

Alamgir Kabir MP's bail prayer rejected again

NAOGAON, June 13: A Magistrate Court here rejected the bail petition of Alamgir Kabir, a BNP MP, for the second time today, reports UNB.

About 20 lawyers led by local Bar Association general secretary Advocate Hafizur Rahman moved the bail petition.

The refusal of bail to Alamgir Kabir evoked sharp criticism of the government. The members of the Bar alleged the government interfered in the judiciary to discriminate application of law.

They pointed to the bail granted to the ruling party MP of Chhatak who was arrested for bomb explosion in his house that killed two men. But Alamgir had on suspicious grounds in connection with the April 30 Atrai murder, has repeatedly been refused bail, they said.

## Not taxable

From Page 1  
with regard to filing of income tax return by overseas non-resident Bangladeshis to the nearest Bangladesh mission.

Under the present system, the statement said, non-resident Bangladeshis may submit their income tax return for income earned in Bangladesh by themselves or through their relatives or by the legal representatives to the concerned income tax office in Bangladesh.

As per the proposed arrangement, it said they can submit their income tax return showing such income to their nearest mission.

**Editor : Mahfuz Anam**

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Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presiding over the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the city yesterday.

—PID photo

## Face critics boldly

From Page 1  
prime minister advised party lawmakers to come up with statistics and arguments while facing their opposition colleagues in parliament.

"You see, the proposed budget has not caused price-hike of essentials," she said, explaining the merit of the new budget to her party MPs.

That yesterday's hartal against the budget was not justified had come out from within the main opposition party itself, she noted.

Responding to a suggestion in the meeting for withdrawal of fresh import duty on books, Sheikh Hasina said it had been proposed to "protect the local publication industry".

In the 85-minute meeting, the prime minister also heard criticism against some other budget proposals, including imposition of Value Added Tax (VAT) on physicians engaged in private practice from a doctor-turned-MP of her party.

VAT for private practitioners would not affect the poor, she argued.

The prime minister also preferred to wait for opposition suggestions regarding controversial issues.

In the meeting, Education Minister ASHK Sadique came under fire by some AL MPs who complained that colleges, schools and madrassahs in their areas were not on the list for government grants and assistance. In reply, the premier asked for a list of the educational institutions.

She also assured to look into an allegation made by a MP

from Narayanganj that some ministers were working against the interest of the ruling party.

Earlier, the finance minister briefed the AL lawmakers on the key aspects of the proposed budget which he claimed had "no new taxes" and would help local industries to grow.

The proposed budget has mainly emphasised on poverty alleviation, self-employment, industrialisation and setting up of more agro-based industries," he noted.

Planning Minister Dr. Md. Huddin Khan Alamgir told the ALPP meeting that he was ready to prove in parliament that the GDP growth rate was 5.2 per cent in the out-going fiscal year. "I'm also ready to have it proven even by foreign experts."

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