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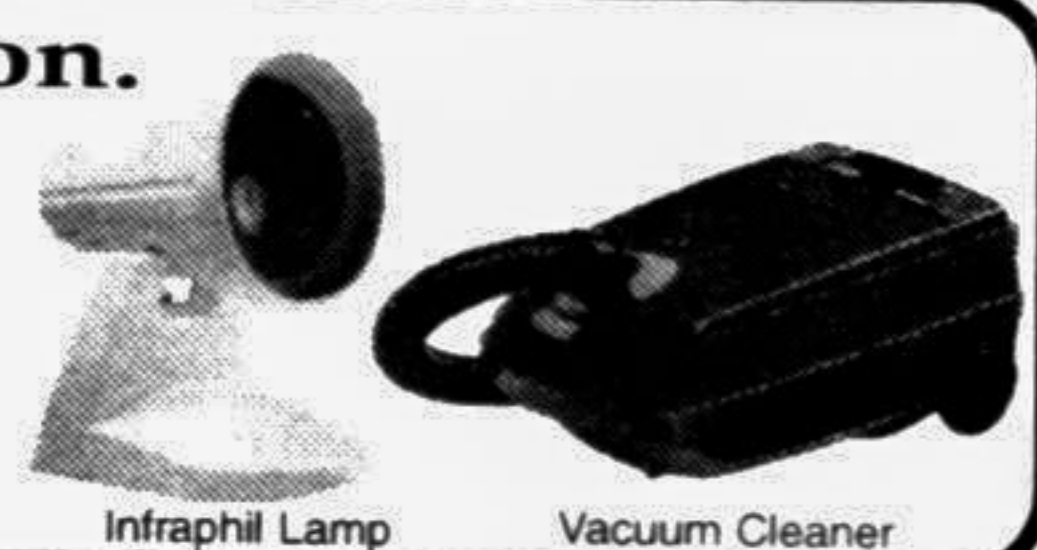
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## Govt borrows heavily from banking system Revenue earning falls short of target

By Monjur Mahmud

The national economy has failed to achieve the ambitious revenue-generating target in the first four months of the current fiscal year. Government's revenue earning till October this year fell some 18 per cent short of the Tk 5,146 crore target for the period, sources concerned said.

The poor earning has forced the government to borrow heavily from the banking system.

During the four months, the earning totalled only Tk 4,233 crore, 17.75 per cent or Tk 913 crore short of the goal. In October, collection was Tk 1,032 crore against the target of Tk 1,417 crore.

The earning in July was Tk 949 crore, in August Tk 1,085.90 crore and in September Tk 1,166.24 crore against the targets of Tk 1,100 crore, Tk 1,262.75 crore and Tk 1,366.47 crore respectively.

The government's revenue earning target is Tk 24,151 crore for fiscal 1999-2000, up by 22.59 per cent from that in fiscal 1998-99.

Of the target for the current fiscal year, the government estimated that tax revenue of Tk 17,500 crore would be available through the National Board of Revenue (NBR), Tk 1,135 crore from non-NBR sources and Tk 5,516 crore as non-tax revenue.

The estimate for the NBR this fiscal year is 17.95 per cent higher than it earned in the last fiscal year. The earning was Tk 14,837 crore against the target of Tk 15,700 crore last year.

Termining this year's target a 'highly-ambitious' one, a top NBR official said the

'experience this year may not be good' because the preshipment inspection (PSI), which was scheduled to be effective from the second quarter (October 1), is yet to be implemented.

"We hope that revenue collection will increase with the implementation of PSI from February 1," he said. "But the volatile political situation will have a negative impact on collection in November."

Revenue collection will be even lower compared to that in the previous months because the loss of working days due to opposition-sponsored hartals will have a negative impact on most businesses and economic activities, he added.

As revenue collection has slowed, government borrowing has increased, the official pointed out.

The government borrowed Tk 1,614 crore from scheduled banks on Sunday. It also borrowed Tk 800 crore against various treasury bills last week.

Explaining the reasons for such heavy borrowings, a central bank official said, "The government finds no option to borrowing money from the

banks when previous treasury bills mature and at the same time, fresh money is needed to meet its current expenditures."

Liquidity position of the commercial banks has improved because of slow disbursement of loans and investments. But government borrowing from the banking system has an inflationary impact on the economy, he mentioned.

## Police fired at my house, says BNP MP

By Staff Correspondent

A group of BNP leaders, including a member of the Standing Committee and three MPs, escaped unhurt when police opened fire at the residence of a BNP leader at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

Witnesses said a bullet struck the door of BNP MP Abdul Mannan's Dhanmondi residence at about 1 pm. At that time he along with his party colleagues was taking tea after holding a rally at Science Laboratory crossing earlier on the day.

Mannan told The Daily Star over telephone that police fired one round of rubber bullet at his house without any reason.

He said that at that time BNP Standing Committee member Khandaker Mahubuddin Ahmed, Ziaur Rahman MP, Abdul Hye MP and some other local leaders were taking tea with him.

"We could have been injured had the flight of bullet been three feet lower," he said.

The BNP leader said that the trace of bullet was still there on his door. He expressed his anguish at the provocative police action.

Mannan said that he and his guests rushed towards the police to ask why they had fired at the house. An on-duty police officer said police had been chasing two 'suspected miscreants' and a constable had opened fire without taking permission from his superiors, he said, adding that the police official was 'very much apologetic'.

## CCC conservancy workers on strike

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 16: Conservancy workers of Chittagong City Corporation have begun a 48-hour strike today.

The workers went on strike demanding security for them and punishment for attackers on garbage vehicles.

Meanwhile, garbage remained piled up at different points of the city due to the strike. Stench-spreading garbage was seen scattered over some of the city roads polluting the environment.

## Shikdar will again be brought to Khulna Nov 21

KHULNA, Nov 16: Ershad Shikdar will be brought here for the second time from Jessore Central Jail on November 21 in connection with hearing of the Panna murder case.

The Additional District and Sessions' Judge's Court will begin hearing the case on November 21, said a source at Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) today.

The source said 11 charge sheets will be submitted before the court on Sunday. Besides, 14 previous cases against Shikdar and his accomplices have already been revived, raising the total number of cases to 35. The cases of the government were also seen at the corridors of the EC Secretariat.

Meanwhile, a number of reporters went to the EC Secretariat yesterday afternoon, following a Bangla daily report that Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena might resign 'anytime'. Another Bangla daily reported yesterday that the CEC would hold a press conference this afternoon (Tuesday afternoon).

Some people from intelligence agencies of the government were also seen at the corridors of the EC Secretariat.

## EC office wore a deserted look

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission Secretariat wore a deserted look yesterday.

Election commissioners and most of the top EC officials were not seen in the office.

The officials spent Monday night at the office and received the results of parliamentary by-election in Tangail-8 constituency till the early hours of yesterday.

However, the Chief Election Commissioner is learnt to have asked some officials concerned to prepare a file on media reports describing 'irregularities' in the by-election. He also asked them to keep a watch on complaints officially made by any candidate who was in the electoral race.

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## Nasim: Khoka

From page 1

The minister replied that his opinions were 'correct'. Khoka also told him that he considered the minister's remarks in parliament about his wounds as 'undesirable and untrue'.

The minister denied that he had said anything objectionable. There had been distortions of his version in newspaper reports, he added, observing that police were not properly trained and that nobody had instructed them to do what they had done to him. "It happens to politicians," he regretted.

"I was shot and wounded during the War of Liberation in 1971. But I did not expect such irresponsible statements from a political person," Khoka said.

The minister requested Mrs. Khoka to see to it that he (Khoka) did not get excited, and urged her to take good care of him. He, however, politely declined to take tea offered by Mrs. Khoka.

The BNP leader underwent surgery to have the four pellets of shotguns removed from his head. Three pellets are still lodged in his head. He is due to leave the hospital today (Wednesday). He is also likely to leave for Singapore after the holy Shab-e-Barat on November 23 for check-up and further treatment.

Dr Matur Rahman of the BIRDEM, who visited Khoka yesterday afternoon, advised the BNP leader to take complete rest at home after leaving the hospital. The physician told newsmen that three pellets were still lodged in Khoka's head but those were unlikely to affect him.

Meanwhile, Sadek Hossain Khoka issued a statement from his hospital bed. In the statement he expressed gratitude to the people who visited him and prayed for his early recovery.

**Editor: Mufiz Anam**

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House, 4, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 8616772-4, Commercial: 8616771, Fax No: 88-02-8613035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net



Two models at a fashion show at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday.

—Star Photo

## GF refuses to join BNP-led movement

By Staff Correspondent

Gana Forum has refused to join the current anti-government agitation by the BNP-led opposition alliance, saying it consists of autocratic and communal forces.

The refusal was made during talks between top leaders of BNP and GF at a dinner hosted by BNP leader M M Rezaul Karim at his Gulshan residence in the city Monday night, sources concerned said.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and GF President Dr Kamal Hossain led their respective sides at the talks that lasted over two hours.

The meeting also discussed Awami League government's 'anti-people' role regarding elections, especially the just-held by-polls in Tangail, the parliament, press and judiciary.

Responding to a BNP proposal to GF to join the 'combined opposition' movement, even from a separate platform, the Forum leaders referred to their opposition to AL's alliance with Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami during BNP rule. The Forum could not join a similar group now led by BNP or share its politics, they said.

The GF leaders however shared BNP's views that a stronger movement against 'misdeeds' of AL government was needed. They agreed to launch such a movement by the party itself and from the platform of 11 Left and Left-leaning parties.

To a suggestion by G F, BNP said it did not find any scope for a negotiated settlement of the current political conflicts after the government's recent treatment of the Opposition.

But both the parties expressed deep concern over the government's 'undemocratic role', especially regarding the functioning of parliament and holding of elections.

The meeting was also attended by Prof AGM Badr-ud-dozza Chowdhury, M Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and M Shamsul Islam of BNP and Pankaj Bhattacharya and Zahirul Islam of GF.

The hearing of the Humayun Zahir murder case has been adjourned yesterday for three months.

Sheikh Rewzan Ali, the metropolitan sessions' judge, said the hearing against the five defendants will resume on January 2, 2000.

It is the fifth time the judge has adjourned proceedings of the seven-year-old case.

Bailed out defendants Babu and Abdul Matin appeared in court to hear the announcement. Three others — Tanmay, Alamgir and Kausar — remained in jail due to the hartal.



A picket trying to damage a rickshaw on a city road during yesterday's hartal.

—Star Photo

## GF demands fresh polls in Tangail-8

By Staff Correspondent

The Gano Forum yesterday demanded cancellation of by-election in Tangail-8 constituency and holding fresh election there for ensuring democracy in the country.

The GF at its presidium meeting yesterday also condemned the ruling party's intervention in the by-election and criticised the government for making the election a farce.

As many as 22 ministers, 70 to 80 ruling party MPs and hundreds of leaders and workers were out to create panic in the constituency and exert pressure on the voters, it said.

Adding that the ruling party embarked upon an undeclared war against an independent candidate.

"It reflects a moral defeat for the ruling party even before the election result is announced," the press release of the Forum said.

According to media report and observers, it has been proved that the by-election in the constituency was not free and fair. It was a farce, the GF said.

Questioning the neutrality of the Election Commission, the Forum said it believes a free and fair election is a must for the democracy.

## DCC inefficiency leaves Karwan Bazar in pile of garbage

By Staff Correspondent

While Dhaka City Corporation officials blame one another for lack of coordination, tonnes of garbage remain piled up in Karwan Bazar area, totally blocking a public thoroughfare and creating health hazard.

The Daily Star, in a recent report, said that about 70 tonnes of garbage is generated daily in Karwan Bazar, the largest vegetable wholesale market in the city. With its current capacity, DCC normally removes half of these once a week. But often it misses the weekly turn, resulting in a massive pile-up.

When contacted, DCC conservancy officials said they requested the Engineering Section several times over the last six months to give them a pay-loader and dumper trucks for removing the garbage from the area. But they are yet to get anything, they said.

In response, the Engineering Section told them that all their pay-loaders and trucks were busy repairing city roads. The DCC has about a dozen working pay-loaders.

The rubbish from the vegetables could also be an excellent source for organic compost.

## Row over fishing

From page 1

The agitated villagers lay siege to the police station and demanded that Haque be arrested. He was eventually arrested.

The villagers later held a rally and brought out procession at Tahirpur thana headquarters demanding arrest of Haque's accomplices. A tense situation was prevailing in the area.

## Road accidents kill 9 in three districts

Nine people were killed in road accidents in Comilla, Magura and Manikganj yesterday, reports UNB.

Four people, including three of a family, were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Chowddagram thana in Comilla early yesterday.

The victims were identified as Shahid, 10, Aleya, 8, and Lipi, 6, children of Tota Mia, and a microbus driver, 50, whose name could not be known.

Police said the accident took place at Dharmapur at about 6.30 am when a Dhaka-bound microbus fell into a roadside ditch killing all the four on the spot.

Police seized the vehicle and sent the bodies to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

Another report from Manikganj says: One Mosharraf Hossain, 50, was killed in a

collision between two trucks at Pachuria in Ghior thana on Dhaka-Aricha highway in the early hours of yesterday. Details of the accident could not be known.

In Magura, two trucks collided on the Dhaka-Jhenidha highway yesterday evening, killing four vegetable traders.

Police and witnesses said 10 people were also injured in the mishap that occurred in Isakhada area at about 6.30 pm when a Dhaka-bound vegetable-laden truck from Kushtia rammed a Kushtia-bound sand-laden truck from Magura.

Three of the victims died on the spot and another died on way to hospital.

Identities of the victims were not known immediately. Police said all the victims, in their mid-30s, hailed from Kushtia.

The bodies were taken to hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with Magura Sadar thana.

## RO to launch enquiry into police firing

Star Report

TANGAIL, Nov 16: Mollah Waheduzzaman, Deputy Commissioner of Tangail and Returning Officer for the Tangail-8 by-elections, said today he will launch an executive inquiry into the incidence of firing at Borchumi polling station during yesterday's by-elections that left nine people injured.

The magistrate had to order law-enforcing personnel to open fire when rival groups clashed near the Borchuna polling station in Shakipur, the Tangail DC told The Daily Star today.

Seven of the injured were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and the remaining two were taken to the Shakipur Thana Health Complex, he added.

"Due to hartal the magistrate concerned could not submit his report to me on the incidence of firing. As soon as I receive his report, the executive inquiry will start," he said.

Many poll observers and newsmen covering yesterday's election faced resistance from magistrates while visiting some polling stations.

The district administration sources, asked about the magistrates' behaviour, said there was 'lack of understanding' as only 42 out of 161 magistrates could arrive on time and attend the briefing session regarding their responsibilities.

"Most of them missed that very important briefing as notices on their electoral duties reached them at very late hours. Many even arrived in Tangail at sundown hours of the election day," said one source adding that all of them were supposed to reach the district headquarters by November 13.

"This may be the reason behind some misunderstanding between magistrates and poll observers in some centres," the source added.

## Ahmed Rahim new envoy to Myanmar

Ahmed Rahim, at present Director General (Administration) of the Foreign Ministry, has been appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar, reports UNB.

## Mugger

From page 1

but returned empty-handed yesterday. Mohammadpur police said another team had gone to Tangail to arrest the prime suspect of the case.

Police said they would find out the motive behind the killing once they arrested the main accused.

The five people arrested so far, Masud, Mintu, Shorab, Borhan and Emarol, appeared before the CMM's court yesterday. The judge put them in police custody for five days of interrogation.

## Another hartal Nov 25

From page 1

at a post-hartal press briefing at the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said more tougher programmes will be announced if the Awami League government does not resign immediately.

BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami MPs will jointly bring out the procession, Bhuiyan said.

Jatiya Party is yet to finalise the date for procession of its MPs as party chief HM Ershad may not be in Dhaka on November 22.

Speaking about yesterday's hartal, Bhuiyan said the ruling party, like in the past, tried its best to resist the shutdown by letting loose party 'terrorists' and using police, but failed to foil the programme as people spontaneously observed it.

Through observing hartal, people once again extended their total support to the

## 4 get 50 yrs RI for throwing acid on teenage girl

GAIBANDHA, Nov 16: A special tribunal court yesterday sentenced four youngsters to 50 years rigorous imprisonment for throwing acid on a teenage girl two years ago, reports UNB.

The court also fined the convicts Abdul Hamid, Selim, Belal and Shamsul Huq Tk 2000 each, in default, to suffer two months more RI.

According to the prosecution, Abdul Hamid of village Nuniagari in Polashbari thana failing to develop an affair with Moslema Khatun, 15, of the same village threw acid on her body on July 1, 1997. Three other convicts aided Hamid in committing the crime.

Moslema, a student of class X in Polashbari Peari Girls High School was rushed to the hospital in a critical condition.

A case was filed accusing five youths. Police after investigation submitted charge sheet against them.

After examining the witnesses, Sessions Judge Sirajuddin Ahmad on Monday handed down the punishment to four accused youngsters and acquitted one.

## Hasina, McKinnon hold talks

DURBAN, Nov 16: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had an informal meeting with the newly elected Secretary General of the Commonwealth Don McKinnon at the international convention centre here yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters on how to make the Commonwealth more effective and protect the interests of the LDCs.

## Official talks

From page 1

Hasina said Bangladesh workers are not only contributing to the Bangladesh economy but at the same time are also contributing to the development works in Saudi Arabia. The Prince appreciated the point.

About seven lakh Bangladeshis are now working in Saudi Arabia.

The prime minister invited the Crown Prince to visit Bangladesh. He gladly accepted, expressing his desire to go to Bangladesh at an early date.

In the meeting the prime minister was aided by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad. Ambassador Abdul Momen Chowdhury, Foreign Secretary CM Shafi Sami and Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Jawadul Karim.

The Prince was assisted by Saudi Planning Minister Khalid Al Hossainy and Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Abdullah.

Earlier, Hasina was given a red-carpet reception at King Khalid International Airport when she flew in here on a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

Hasina had an audience with Saudi King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz later in the evening at the royal palace.