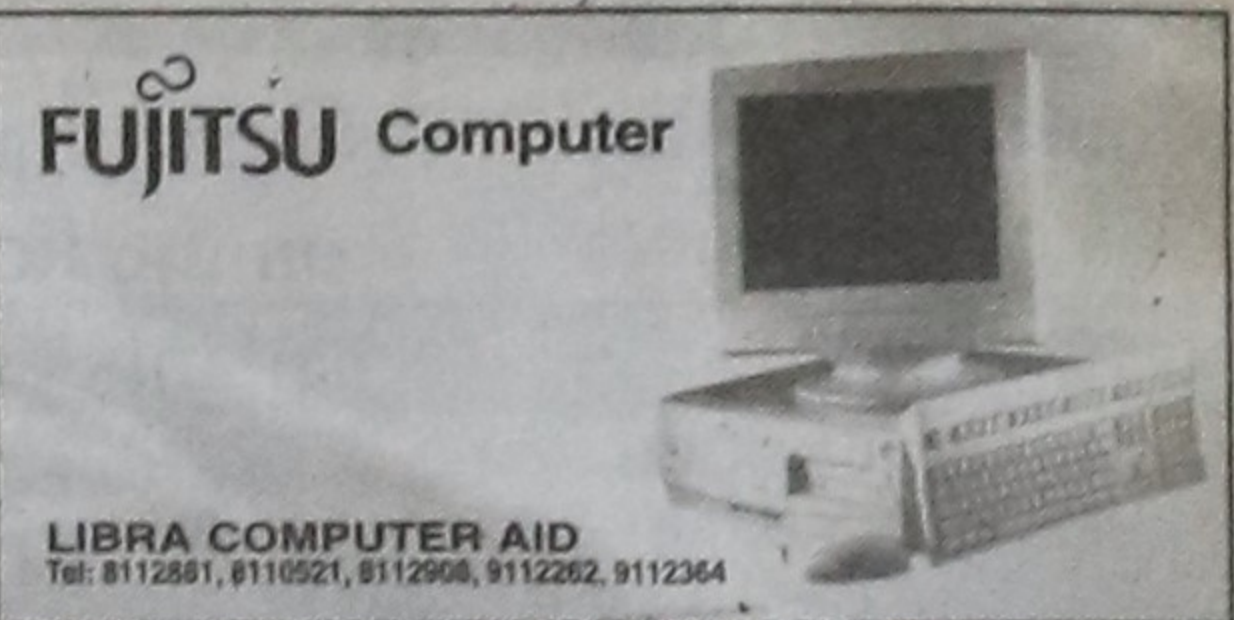


# The Daily Star



VOL. X NO. 306 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2000.

3rd Millennium

AGRAHAYAN 11, 1407 BS

SHABAN 28, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00

## Forex reserve dips to \$1.2b

# IMF's 'no' to request for low-conditionality loans

By Inam Ahmed

With the country's foreign exchange reserve at a consistently low level and import witnessing a sudden spurt, Bangladesh has sought foreign exchange bailout from the IMF to get over any crisis situation.

However, IMF has categorically told the government that it does not have any loan facilities with low-conditionality, as Bangladesh has been requesting for.

It said although Finance Minister S A M S Kibria had sought balance of payment help from the IMF at the Prague annual meeting of the World Bank and IMF, all its loans are high-conditionality ones.

Meanwhile, the country's foreign exchange reserve dipped to as low as 1.2 billion dollars this week, triggering fresh tension over how to bank it up. It however increased marginally after release of Japanese grants.

This year's good export performance and remittance flow could not help the reserve much, hovering around 1.5 billion dollars for the last few years. This was mainly because of

a corresponding import surge.

On the other hand, dollar was selling at a premium in the kerb market, indicating that taka has appreciated. This may affect inflow of foreign exchange.

"We did not bother much, though we were concerned, about the low balance of payment situation," said a finance ministry official. "But now it looks that investment is picking up, resulting in increased import. With such a poor reserve position, the investment growth may face hiccups. It is absolutely necessary to increase reserve and so we are exploring IMF helpline."

However, IMF's two major bailout measures called energy facility and compensatory facility are not relevant for Bangladesh now.

The first one is used to support a country's balance of payment situation in case of fuel related crisis and the second one is used to compensate a country in the face of global price loss of exportables.

Bangladesh can explore the stand-by facility which is around one fourth of its drawing quota as an IMF member. Under this facility, it can get at best 150 million SDR.

Besides, it can opt for the poverty reduction grant facility but this would require a lengthy process. The country will need to have a poverty reduction strategy in place, which it initiated months ago but is yet to be completed.

However, IMF has already told the government that for any of the cash line, it will have to prove its credibility to fulfil conditionalities of reforms.

IMF has reminded that on the fiscal side, rationalisation of public expenditure, bridging government borrowing and expanding tax base are of prime importance. On the other hand, SOE privatisation, financial sector reform and flexible exchange rate management should be followed through.

## Easing traffic jam by 'killing' scores of trees

By Staff Correspondent

In an unusual move to ease traffic jam, authorities are relocating the dividers on Mirpur Road, uprooting and replanting scores of trees under a World Bank aided project.

Officials of the Tk 1,100 crore Dhaka Urban Transport Project said that a component of DUTP the on-going 'demonstration project' covering Russel Square to Shyamoli stretch of Mirpur Road is aimed at ensuring 'proper right turns'.

But local people and various sources concerned wondered over relocation of the road divider in such a way. Even the site inspector of the contractor, Shah Alam, expressed surprise at the way the trees were being replanted on the newly built divider.

The trees replanted last week are already dead.

Besides, construction work for relocation of the dividers during daytime is seriously affecting traffic on the busy road.

Greater Dhaka Transport Planning and Coordination Board

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Trees, first uprooted and then replanted on the relocated divider on Mirpur road to ease traffic jam, have all perished within a week. — Star photo

## Alleged child trafficker beaten to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

An alleged child trafficker was beaten to death by mob at East Sheikhdi in the city's Demra area yesterday morning.

The incident took place at about 11.45 am when the unidentified man tried to kidnap a boy from Ershadullah Road of East Sheikhdi, sources said.

Another source said the man tried to snatch valuables from a pedestrian. As the pedestrian made hue and cry for help local people chased and managed to catch him.

He died on the spot when the mob started beating him mercilessly. Police recovered the body and sent it to the Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

Demra police said they heard from unconfirmed sources that the victim was identified as Alam.

Police arrested three people Ruhul Amin, Abdul Khalek and Abdul Alam for their alleged involvement in the incident.

A murder case was lodged with Demra thana in this connection.

## Tendons of Khulna Jubo League activist severed

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 24: Tendons of Jubo League activist Ferdous were cut off Thursday morning by some miscreants at Mollapara under Khulna Thana.

He was admitted to KMCH in a critical condition.

A case was recorded with Khulna thana in this connection, but none was arrested till filing of this report at 6.30 pm today.

## Inside Today Article

### Vicissitudes in the Life of an Enigmatic but Controversial Person

Column: Currents and Crosscurrents  
By M M Rezaul Karim  
Page 4

## Supplement

A two-page supplement on the convocation 2000 of North South University on Pages 8 & 9

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 25		5.11 pm
Nov 26	6-21 am	

## Prayer Timings

November 25

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-20
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-16	5-23
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina poses for a photograph with the winners of National Film Awards 1995-98 at Osmani Memorial Hall in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Produce healthy films : PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged filmmakers to produce healthy and quality film, reports BSS.

"Our film should also depict our national culture and heritage," she said while distributing National Film Awards 1995-98 at the Osmani Memorial Hall yesterday evening.

Sheikh Hasina said her government would patronise production of healthy and creative films. "I can assure you that my government will provide all support to those engaged in good filmmaking," she said.

She said prior to the liberation of the country and shortly after that a good number of films were produced in the country, which gave guidance.

"But the films produced from 1975 to 1996 failed to project national culture," she added.

The Prime Minister also called on filmmakers to produce good and creative films for the children to enable them to learn from those films to become worthy citizens of the country. She said the children of today are the leaders of tomorrow.

Terming film as a powerful and creative mass medium, she said it could play a vital role in educating society. She hoped that the film producers would make films based on real life and thus help change lot of the people.

The Prime Minister said the government had formulated the national film policy and it would be implemented soon after necessary scrutiny. She mentioned that her government had already taken an elaborate programme to modernise the film sector.

She said the Film Development Corporation (FDC) had been modernised at a cost of Taka 26 crore. She further pointed out that the government had a plan to build a 'film city' at Kaliakur. She expressed the hope that better films would be produced with the construction of the city.

The function was also addressed by State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed and the additional secretary in charge of the ministry of information, M. I. Chowdhury.

## Nat'l Film Awards 1995-98

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday distributed National Film Awards 1995-98 among the winners at a function at the Osmani Memorial Hall in the city, reports UNB.

National Film Award 1995:

Best film: Annyo Jibon, producer Sheikh Niyamat Ali, best story: Tanveer Mokammel, film Nadir Naam Modhumoti, best director: Sheikh Niyamat Ali, film Annyo Jibon, best actor: Asad, film Annyo Jibon, best actress: Champa, film Annyo Jibon, best co-actor: Abul Khayer, film Annyo Jibon, best co-actress: Shanta Islam, film Annyo Jibon, best film editor: Atiqur Rahman Malik, film Annyo Jibon, best cameraman (colour): Anwar Hossain, film Annyo Jibon, best screenplay: Sheikh Niyamat Ali, film Annyo Jibon, best art director: Uttam Guha, film Annyo Jibon, best playback singer (male): Sayedur Rahman Bayati, film Nadir Naam Modhumoti, best playback singer (female): Kanak  
See page 11 col 3



A get-together of the students of Holy Cross College marking the 50th founding anniversary of the institution was held on the college campus yesterday. — Star photo

## Police quiz adopted daughters of Dr Malika

By Staff Correspondent

Police yesterday questioned the adopted daughters of Dr Malika Al-Razee and their relatives following a case filed against them by authorities of the college founded by her.

Dharmadoli police went to Dr Malika College in the morning and questioned them for about two hours.

Principal of the college Mohammad Ishaque filed the case accusing five—Mahfuza Dhal, her husband Mominur Rahman, sister Maksudah Dhal, brother Yunus Dhal and an outsider, Toufikul Haq—police said quoting the FIR.

The FIR said that the accused had illegally entered a room at the college on Wednesday night and took away some valuables. They were also threatening the college authorities to close down the college immediately.

The adopted daughters also

See page 11 col 3

## Boral murder Russel, Jewel confess involvement

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 24: Russel and Jewel members of outlawed Purbia Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) told police that they were involved in the killing of Kalidas Boral and also in an abortive attempt on the life of Ward Commissioner Atiar Rahman of Noapara pourashava.

Quoting confession of both the members of PBCP, the OC of Abhoyanagar thana Ali Ahmed Hashmi said Taka 5,000 out of Tk 30,000 was paid to them in advance for killing Atiar Rahman on October 23 this year near Raj Textiles Mills at Noapara.

They further confessed that a close relative of the Pura commissioner committed to make full payment, he added.

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## Results of Diabetic Association lottery draw on page 11

## Nomination for next polls BNP factions in Khulna lobbying against each other

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Nov 24: The inter-party rivalry in Khulna district and city committees of BNP has taken an alarming turn. Supporters of the rival groups are frequently seen flexing muscles against each other, sources said.

One group is led by former Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali MP and Khulna City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman. The other group is led by central Joint Secretary of BNP and former Whip Ashraf Hossain.

Ashraf Hossain group is backed by city BNP President M Nurul Islam and General Secretary Nazrul Islam while the Razzak-Tayeb group enjoys the support of all senior thana level leaders of the party.

The two rival groups have two separate offices. Supporters of Razzak-Tayeb group sit at their newly set up office at the RCC Supermarket. Supporters of Ashraf group sit at the city BNP office at K D Ghose Road.

The rival groups hold meetings and bring out processions separately on same issues.

The intra-party rivalry intensified centring formation of city and district units of the All-Party Action Committee (APAC) early this year. The two groups proposed their candidates for posts of convener of the

See page 11 col 6

## 'Unbecoming conduct' of a judge Court's decision on drawing contempt charge Monday

By Special Correspondent

The High Court would give its order on Monday whether to draw contempt of court proceedings against Justice Mohammad Latifur Rahman, a judge of the court who resigned on Thursday.

The President accepted his resignation.

Justice Latifur Rahman quit amid a growing controversy centering alleged conversation between him and former president HM Ershad following his (Ershad) conviction in the Janata Tower Case.

A cassette containing the alleged conversation was sent to the Chief Justice by a Division Bench of the High Court on Wednesday for 'conduct unbecoming' of the Judge. The Bench comprised Justice Syed Amirul Islam and Justice KM Shafuluddin.

The Bench sent the cassette

after hearing a contempt rule on tabloid daily Manab Jamin for publishing the alleged conversation. The cassette was given by the counsel for the tabloid.

The alleged conversation was

published by Manab Jamin under the headline 'Arekti Rajokyo Sharajantir Khasra' on September 16.

The Attorney General brought it to the notice of the High Court, which issued contempt of court rule on the tabloid, asking it to show cause.

The court also issued similar rule on three other newspapers—the Ittefaq, Janakantha and Sangbad—for publishing comments on the alleged conversation, quoting Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, a member of the Law Commission.

The HC Bench also issued a rule on Ershad asking him to show cause by December 3 why he should not be prosecuted for attempts to influence the course of justice.

The Bench would also decide

See page 11 col 6

Justice Latifur Rahman

## Election of local govt bodies unlikely during this govt

By Nazrul Islam

Election of local government bodies are unlikely to be held during the tenure of the present government because of legal problems and the Election Commission's preoccupation with preparations for the next general election.

"We are considering the next general election as top priority and are not thinking about other elections right now," Election Commissioner Moshataq Ahmed Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

The EC will formally begin preparations for the next general election after printing of the new voters' list is completed, possibly in January, sources at the EC said.

"Election of Gram Parishads, Upazila Parishads and Zila Parishads may take place after the parliamentary election," one source said.

The next parliamentary election is due in September next year.

Assuming power in 1996, the Awami League government announced a policy for a four-tier local government structure.

For election of Zila Parishads, except in the three hill districts, the government enacted the Zila Parishad Law with a provision for indirect election. As per the law, a Zila Parishad, comprising a chairman and 20 members, would be elected by a panel of

voters representing local government bodies at lower tiers. Five seats of the members are reserved for women.

The new law also provides for appointment of an administrator at the Zila Parishad for the interim period till election.

But opposition BNP filed a writ challenging the constitutional legitimacy of the new law.

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রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ

রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা

## বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, রাজউকের আওতাভুক্ত এলাকায় সকল প্রকার নির্মাণ কার্যের জন্য ইমারত নির্মাণ আইন ১৯৫২ (পরবর্তী সংশোধনী ১৯৮৭)-এর সংশ্লিষ্ট ধারা মোতাবেক রাজউক থেকে নির্মাণ কার্যের পূর্ব অনুমোদন গ্রহণ করা বাধ্যতামূলক। সম্প্রতি লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, রাজউক কর্তৃক হুকুম দখল প্রক্রিয়াধীন প্রস্তাবিত উত্তরা তৃতীয় পর্ব এলাকার বাড়িয়া, বাইলজুরী, চাকুলী, চতাল ভোগ, চকদিগুন, হিগুন, নলভোগ, দিয়াবাড়ি মৌজার ভূমি হুকুম দখল আইনের আওতায় ও ধারা নোটিশ জারীর পর অবৈধভাবে অসংখ্য নতুন ঘর উঠানো হয়েছে এবং এখনও উঠানো হচ্ছে।

হুকুম দখল আওতাভুক্ত এলাকায় অবৈধভাবে নির্মিত/নির্মাণাধীন অবকাঠামো নির্মাণের জন্য ক্ষতিপূরণ প্রদান বিধি বহির্ভূত। তাই সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, অত্র এলাকা রাজউকের আওতাভুক্ত এলাকা বিধায় ইমারত নির্মাণের আইনের সংশ্লিষ্ট ধারা অনুযায়ী নতুন অনুমোদন ব্যতিরেকে নির্মিত/নির্মাণাধীন আলোচ্য অবৈধ নির্মাণ কার্যসমূহ অনতিবিলম্বে ভেঙ্গে অপসারণের জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট নির্মাণকারী/মালিককে অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে। অন্যথায় রাজউক স্বউদ্যোগে এই সকল অবৈধ নির্মাণ কাজ ভেঙ্গে অপসারণ করবে এবং বামিত খরচ সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তির নিকট হতে আদায় করা হবে এবং প্রচলিত আইন ও বিধি বিধানের আলোকে ফৌজদারী কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করবে।

চেয়ারম্যান

রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ

রাজউক ভবন, ঢাকা।

জিডি-১০৮৯