

# ADP falling far short of target

36% of budget used in 8 months

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Only 36 percent of the country's development budget has been utilised in the first eight months of the current fiscal.

Of the utilised budget for the Annual Development Programme (ADP), 42 percent was from its local component and 30 percent from project aid, sources in the finance ministry said.

The pace of ADP slowed down especially as the government could not start implementation of two large programmes under education and health sectors.

The allotment for ADP in the current fiscal is Tk 20,300 crore. Its local part is Tk 11,816 crore, of which

Tk 4,962 crore has been utilised so far. And of the total Tk 8,484-crore project aid, only Tk 2,545 crore has been used.

A planning ministry official said the pace of utilising the local component of the development budget was by and large satisfactory and would gain momentum when implementation of development programmes in the communications sector started.

Communications sector accounts for a big chunk of the ADP, the official added.

Of the development budget's local component, 52 percent has so far been disbursed in favour of the ADP, a finance ministry official said.

The slow pace of ADP implementation, combined with a higher revenue income and increased sales of savings certificates, has helped reduce the government's borrowing from the country's banking sector.

In the first seven months of the current fiscal, the revenue income increased by about 16 percent to Tk 13,972 crore, compared to the corresponding period in the previous year, a National Board of Revenue (NBR) official said.

Despite lowering of interest rates by 1.5 percent, the net sales of savings certificates in the first six months of the current fiscal registered a 35-percent rise to Tk 2,695

## Business leaders want early end to political confrontation

UNB, Narsingdi

Business leaders yesterday sought an early end to confrontational politics to ensure an investment-friendly environment that is imperative for creating resources and employment.

"How can we create wealth and employment for the country if confrontation continues at national level?" questioned President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) AbdulAwalMintoo.

He asked the politicians to be tolerant and resolve all political problems through discussion as soon as possible. "Otherwise, the nation will suffer for your failure," he cautioned.

Accompanied by other leaders of the apex business body, Mintoo visited factories at Madhabdi, dubbed as the Manchester of the East, spoke at a reception accorded to him and held meeting with Narsingdi chamber.



Earth diggers and bulldozers work for expansion and uplift of Zia International Airport.

PHOTO: STAR

## PM, Hawa Bhaban run dual rule: Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of introducing a 'dual rule', one by herself and the other by her son in the Hawa Bhaban, dubbed as the political base of ruling BNP.

"The days of the BNP-Jamaat coalition are numbered and attacks on political opponents by alliance adherents will only quicken its fall," Hasina told the first council of Jubo Mahila League, young women's front of the Awami League (AL), at the auditorium of the Engineers' Institution, Bangladesh.

On the move to amend the constitution to reserve 45 parliamentary seats for women, the opposition leader said the AL rejected the proposed amendment, as the demand for direct elections to the seats was not reflected in it.

Hasina, also AL president,



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses the first council of Jubo Mahila League, the young women's front of her party, at the Engineers' Institution Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday.

## Shibir men rough up JCD hall president at Alia Madrassah

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) cadres beat up the Allama Kashgari Hall (AKH) unit president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Alia Madrassah on Sunday.

Led by Masudur Rahman, AKH unit president of ruling Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing, about 10 ICS activists bashed Abdul Motaleb, JCD hall unit president, in front of his room No. 103 with hockey sticks, cricket stumps and iron rods at about 11:30pm, sources said.

Motaleb, also a Fazil examinee, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with severe injuries.

According to sources, ICS men assaulted the coalition partner student front's hall unit president as he asked a fellow JCD activist to stay at room No. 102 of the AKH only 30 minutes before the attack on him.

ICS supporters started to beat Motaleb as he refused to oust the JCD activist from the hall, they added.

An uneasy calm was prevailing at the hall between the alliance government's student fronts. Additional police were deployed at the hall to avert further violence.

## DU BCL leader shot, stabbed

DU CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified assailants shot and stabbed a Dhaka University hall unit leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the Awami League, near the Teacher Student Centre (TSC) yesterday.

Abdul Hadi, organising secretary of Salimullah Hall unit of the BCL, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet and stab wounds in the head, throat, chest and abdomen.

Witnesses said a group of about seven youths made the attack on Hadi at about 7:00pm.

The motive behind the attack could not be known immediately.

## PICNIC TRAGEDY

# Lone survivor cheats death with stroke of luck

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Sajal got a new lease of life on Saturday and believes it was divine providence that brought him back from the brink of death.

"Almighty Allah has saved me from drowning in the sea. I swam ashore hanging on to a small log," said the final year architecture student at Khulna University (KU).

Eleven other students -- nine from the KU and two from Dhaka's BUET -- perished after being swept into the Bay of Bengal by strong currents off Katka beach where they went for a swim at around Saturday noon.

The victims and Sajal, the lone survivor, were on an excursion to the Sundarbans as part of a 98-member team, mainly from the KU. The two students from BUET (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology) joined the group as guests.

"We were wading through waist-deep water near the beach. Suddenly, we were engulfed by a high wave and pulled into the sea. As I struggled to stay afloat, I found a log floating in the water and held on to it tightly as I swam toward the shore. It was a miracle," Sajal said.

"Five of my friends who died were the only sons of their parents

and Arnaj Rifat Rupa (the lone female victim) was the only daughter," a tearful Sajal said on Sunday noon as he prepared to head home to Dhaka.

A pall of gloom descended on the KU campus as the university went into a three-day mourning for the deceased.

Information minister Tariqul Islam received nine bodies on Sunday at Mongla. High officials of the navy, coastguards, police and forest department, KU vice-chancellor and province-chancellor and deputy commissioner of Bagerhat were present. The bodies were later flown to the victims' home districts.

## Driver found dead inside car

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Body of a private car driver, who was earlier on March 7 allegedly abducted along with the car by some carjackers, was recovered from a canal at Bachilla in Mohammadpur early yesterday.

Mohammadpur police recovered the body of Mizanur Rahman Zafar, 28, with his hands and legs tied and his neck twined with ropes at about 12:30 am. The body also bore a cut in the abdomen.

Four miscreants beat the driver,

## 10 'Bangladeshis' held in Jammu

PTI, Jammu

Ten alleged Bangladeshi nationals, including a woman, were arrested in RS Pura sector of Jammu division while they were trying to cross over to Pakistan, official sources said yesterday.

Army personnel took them into custody following their attempt to cross the border at Ankat, they said.

After preliminary questioning, they were handed over to police for further investigation. In another incident, police apprehended one Amir Ali at a bus stand in RS Pura town.

Ali, 32, hails from the Sylhet district.

Prayer Timings		
March 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-18
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		

# Pallabi teacher's rape, murder reveal a crime saga

STAR REPORT

The room at Pallabi's Kalapani area where Fatema Khatun Kohinoor was gang-raped and burnt to death Friday had long been used as a hangout by local hoodlums, residents of the area said.

Local people however remained tight-lipped about the identities of the hoodlums, apparently for fear of reprisal.

They only said that in the past many women, mostly female garment workers living in the impoverished and congested Kalapani area to avail of its cheap house rent, were picked up by local

criminals and brought into the room to be raped.

Sitting on top of a row of four one-room accommodations and accessed only through a corridor, the makeshift room has long been abandoned by its owner Shahidul Islam, a dairy trader. The empty room with an iron ladder leading to it and a wooden bed inside became a magnet for criminals.

At around 5:30pm last Thursday, the hoodlums abducted Kohinoor on her way home from a tutorial job and brought her to the room. After raping her, they doused her with flammable liquid and set fire to her body early Friday

morning. Billowing smoke from the room alerted the night guards who awoke the residents.

Pallabi Police have so far arrested five people including Shahidul Islam and his two sons in connection with the brutal murder.

Kohinoor, third of six brothers and one sister, took up a private tuition job only a month ago to support her family and was yet to get her salary. Parul Akhtar, mother of Kohinoor's student, said she never missed a day of work.

The third-floor apartment of

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# 'New planet' discovered

BBC ONLINE

Astronomers have detected what could be the Solar System's 10th planet.

Found further away than other planets by the recently launched Spitzer Space Telescope, it has been called Sedna after the Inuit goddess of the ocean.

Observations show it is about 2,000 km across and it may even be larger than Pluto, which is 2,250 km across.

There is likely to be debate about

whether it qualifies as a true planet, but some astronomers are already saying it re-defines the Solar System.

The Hubble Space Telescope has also seen it.

Details will be announced by the US space agency Nasa later on Monday.

Sedna is the largest object found circling the Sun since the discovery of Pluto in 1930. Its size is uncertain.

One astronomer told BBC News

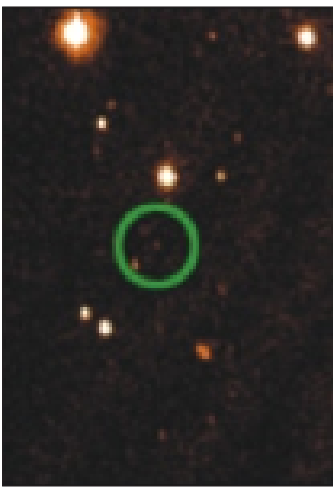


PHOTO: BBC

Sedna, marked in a circle, is currently about 13 billion km from Earth.

# Top Khulna AL leader escapes bomb attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A senior Khulna district Awami League leader escaped apparently an attempt on his life yesterday when unidentified miscreants exploded a powerful bomb in his drug store opposite Khulna city BNP office at KD Ghose Road near Khulna Police Station.

Molla Jalauddin Ahmed was outside the store, Sattar Pharmacy, when the incident occurred in presence of patrol police deployed to guard the BNP office. Police recovered splinters of the bomb from the spot.

Molla Jalal, also senior vice president of Khulna unit of Bangladesh

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