

PRAN HOT Line
For any PRAN products at your iftar party.
Call: 0192 256 726 &
get the products at your door step

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

Plus 16-page Star Life Style



TO People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVI NO. 265

DHAKA TUESDAY OCTOBER 10, 2006

ASHWIN 25, 1413 BS

RAMADAN 16, 1427 HJRI

24 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00

www.thedailystar.net

REVISED TATA OFFER Negotiation body finalises its report

UNB, Dhaka

The secretary-level government negotiation committee on Tata's \$3 billion investment proposal has finalised its report.

The committee yesterday held its wrap-up meeting with the ministerial committee headed by Industries Minister Matiur Rahman Nizami at his office.

Member Secretary of the ministerial committee and Board of Investment (BoI) Executive Chairman Mahmudur Rahman, State Minister for Power and Land UKil Abdus Sattar, head of the government negotiation committee and Communication Secretary Shafiqul Islam and other members of the committee were present at the meeting.

After the meeting, Mahmudur Rahman, who is also energy advisor, SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Inequality deepens

Rich-poor gap in villages widens, though poverty declines in 5 yrs

INAM AHMED and REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Poverty has significantly reduced in five years since 2000 by 8.9 percentage points to 40 percent, but the rich-poor gap has widened further, according to the latest Household Expenditure Survey (HES), posing a new challenge to policymakers to close the gap.

The Income Gini Co-efficient, a measure to assess income inequality, shows an increase from 0.451 in 2000 to 0.467 in 2005, mostly because of increasing rural inequality. A higher Gini Co-efficient reflects a worsening situation for poverty.

Rural Gini Co-efficient increased from 0.393 in 2000 to 0.428 in 2005. Although the urban inequality did not get worse, nei-

ther did it improve. The urban Gini Co-efficient remained static at 0.497 in the five years.

In fact, inequality in Bangladesh also deepened for the decade since 1990. The earlier HES showed the coefficient was 0.259 in 1991-92 and it reached 0.306 in 2000. This measure was done by assessment in 14 zones of the country. However, the new HES figure was derived by widening the assessment area to 16 zones.

The other continued alarming trend reflected in the survey is that income share of the lower tier people has decreased while the top 50 percent's increased, widening the gap between the richest and the poorest. It is now clear that 50 percent of the population claims only 20.32 percent of total income. Interestingly, the top 5 percent or

the richest of the tiers also lost their share of income and recorded at 26.93 percent as against the previous survey that showed them to have sharply gained their share of income.

Looking at the consumption pattern, it is found that there was no significant change of Gini Co-efficient of consumption expenditure between 2005 and 2000. However, the rural people spent more as their share in expenditure increased from 0.279 to 0.284 on the Gini Co-efficient.

A joint study on chronic poverty in Bangladesh by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and Chronic Poverty Research Centre released Sunday has observed: "It appears that there is a growth-inequality-poverty

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

CASE AGAINST BABAR, IG Judicial probe ordered into cop excesses

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered a judicial enquiry into the police excesses on opposition workers during September 21 hartal after an opposition leader filed a criminal case against the state minister for home, inspector general of police (IGP) and 248 policemen in this connection.

Awami Swechhasebak League President AFM Bahauddin Nasim filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court against the accused that includes several high-ranking police officials.

Taking the complaint into cognisance, Metropolitan Magistrate ABM Abdul Fattah recorded statement of the complainant and ordered the judicial probe.

Swechhasebak League general SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

AL proposes Mahmudul as caretaker chief

Jalil, Bhuiyan discuss it today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At the fourth-round negotiations today, Awami League (AL) will seek the ruling BNP's view on former chief justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury as a replacement for justice KM Hasan to head the next caretaker government.

Sources said AL General Secretary Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan on Sunday proposed that Justice Mahmudul could be appointed to the post of chief adviser.

He also argued that appointing him [Mahmudul] would be well within the ambit of the constitution and there would be no legal bar to doing so.

Sources in the BNP said on principle the party does not have any reservations about Mahmudul as the chief adviser but they might see the issue as a matter of ego.

If the government side has to replace Hasan in the interest of breaking the impasse, then it will have to make the former chief justice feel embarrassed to take over as the chief adviser, sources said.

Besides, the ruling party in that case will have to look for ways that would spare it the public impression that it has been defeated in the opposition at the talks.

It will also have to decide whether they would take the responsibility to make Hasan decline the post.

Sources said Bhuiyan has

already talked to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in this regard. The BNP secretary general, who earlier took time from Jalil, will let his opposition counterpart know today the ruling side's position on the demand for replacing Hasan.

The fourth day's dialogue will deal mainly with the interpretations of different constitutional provisions and legal barriers that might arise out of appointment of a person acceptable to all parties as the chief adviser, said sources.

Meanwhile, senior BNP leaders including Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman met at Bhuiyan's residence last night to discuss from constitutional point of view the prospective replacement of Justice Hasan.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



ALLIANCE'S 5 YEARS IN OFFICE

Pricey essentials, power crisis dwarf success talk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Any successes of the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government have been shadowed by failures like price hike of essentials, acute power crisis and unabated corruption during its five-year tenure.

The coalition government's tenure is also marked by the rise of Islamist militant groups, politicisation of the administration, extra judicial killings by the law enforcers, killing of top politi-

cians including lawmakers and former finance minister and assassination attempt on the leader of the opposition.

No effective steps were taken by this government to combat corruption, it just formed the non-functioning Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC). And many believe Hawa Bhaban, the BNP chairperson's party office, has become the centre of corrupt practices. Tarique Rahman, senior joint secretary general of the BNP

and eldest son of the prime minister, is virtually unchallenged in power politics both within the government and the party. He reportedly controlled government affairs turning Hawa Bhaban into an alternative power centre.

Besides, Tarique and BNP leaders close to him are considered as the most influential figures in the government and the party, who influenced things ranging from businesses to appointment of

AL to observe 'Black Day' today, BNP to talk success

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) will observe today as a 'Black Day'. On this day five years ago, the BNP-led coalition came to power.

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will address a gathering in the city today, evaluating the performance of the coalition government.

Leaders of different political parties and professional bodies and civil society members will

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Nothing to take place beyond constitution

Says PM

UNB, Kachua, Chandpur

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday categorically said nothing will take place beyond the constitution and the next general elections will be held under the caretaker government.

"We want peace and consensus. It does not mean that we have to accept whatever the opposition wants. Nothing will take place outside the purview of the constitution," Khaleda, also the chairperson of the ruling BNP, told a public meeting at Kachua Degree College ground.

She said the constitution provides for caretaker government and it will remain. Three elections took place under the caretaker government and the next general

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

EC to announce polls schedule next month

Voter list yet to be ready for use

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) plans to announce schedule for the ninth parliament election in the last week of November while the voter list is yet to be ready for use in the polls and the political disputes over the EC have remained unresolved.

In a pre-election meeting on law and order situation with the law enforcement agencies, the EC yesterday asked them to keep peaceful the atmosphere ahead of the next parliamentary election scheduled for early January.

"The schedule for the next election will be announced in November. The Election Commission asked the law enforcement agencies to check any

deterioration in law and order ahead of the polls," Abdur Rashid Sarkar, secretary of the EC Secretariat, told reporters at his office.

But the voter list, which was updated during July-August amid enormous controversy over its flawlessness, is yet to be ready for use in the polls as the EC Secretariat could not start printing the updated list.

The EC Secretariat has, however, planned to complete the task for printing the updated electoral rolls by November 18 by awarding the vendors with the task by October 18.

"We are determined to complete the entire task of printing the voter list in a month," the EC secretary

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Stay alert against bid to fail talks

Says Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged her party leaders to have patience and work to make the ongoing reforms dialogue successful while going ahead with their reforms movement.

"The government has been conspiring to foil the dialogue and they can foil it any time fearing they

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

CORRUPTION Three Biman directors fired

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism yesterday removed three top brass of Bangladesh Biman from their jobs on corruption charges.

Ahsan Kadir (Director Planning), Abdus Salam (Director Administration) and Mazharul Islam (Director Customer Service) have been removed from their jobs,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

CHAMPIONS TROPHY Lanka look to win, move on

REUTERS, Ahmedabad

Sri Lanka are looking to raise their tepid on Tuesday in a bid to seal a qualifiers slot in the Champions Trophy main rounds with a victory over Zimbabwe.

"Our first goal is to post two wins and move on," skipper Mahela Jayawardene told reporters on Monday. "It is not important who the opposition is."

Sri Lanka and defending champions West Indies are expected to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

THE SCIENCE OF WEATHERPROOFING

BERGER Weather Coat SMOOTH 100% ACRYLIC

- Anti-fungal
- Anti-fading
- Anti-flaking

Also available in SHEEN

Our Country

Our Bank

DBBL'S
31st Branch Opens today

Didar Shopping Complex, Rampasha Road, Biswanath, Sylhet

The following Branches will be opened soon

Moulavi Bazar Branch Sanawor Complex Moulavi Bazar	Muradpur Branch Al-Kabir Tower Panchlish, Chittagong	Golappong Branch Noor Mansion, Golappong Sylhet	Rajshahi Branch Fahim Landmark, Rani Bazar Bata More, Rajshahi	Savar Bazar Branch A-38, Savar Bazar Road Savar
--	--	---	--	---

Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited
YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER