

Subsidy, import duty cut needed to curb commodity price hike

BBC Sanglap told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Subsidy and reduction of import duty on essentials would help the government get a grip on the price inflation, said Dr Akbar Ali Khan, former finance adviser to a caretaker government.

Speaking at the BBC Bangladesh Sanglap yesterday held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital, the former bureaucrat said, "The government will have to buy the essentials on the open market at higher prices and sell those at lower prices... to check the price increase of essentials, if necessary, the government will have to allocate funds from other sectors of the budget."

Other participants in the Sanglap were Maj Gen (retd) Subid Ali Bhuiyan, member of Awami League (AL) advisory council.

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Saarc officials to talk terror funding in Delhi this month

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Senior officials of Saarc countries have agreed to meet in New Delhi late this month to discuss ways to stop terror-funding as the grouping decided to operationalise the proposed regional Development Fund as soon as possible and set up an expert group for the development of capital markets in South Asia.

The issue of measures to counter terror-funding came up for discussion at the meeting of Saarc finance secretaries in the Indian capital on Friday.

A working group of the eight-nation association will meet on September 24 or 26 to suggest more

concrete ways to tackle the problem, Indian Financial Sector Secretary Vinod Rai told the media yesterday.

However, the issue was not discussed at the meeting of the Saarc finance ministers, Indian Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram told reporters separately.

The issue of stopping terror-funding in South Asia assumes significance as the Saarc summit held here in April had called for urgent conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

The ministerial meeting discussed issues relating to Saarc Development Fund, which has already collected \$300 million. It

also discussed enhancing collaborations between capital market regulators in the countries of the region, South Asian Economic Union and South Asian Customs Union, Chidambaram said.

He said since the last Saarc summit this year in Delhi had decided to operationalise the Development Fund without any further delay, it was necessary for the member countries to come to an agreement on the terms of reference so that the fund can be utilised for activities that support the development goals of other countries.

The fund has three windows—economic, social and infrastructure—and Chidambaram stressed SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Viqarunnisa College student commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A student of Viqarunnisa Noon College committed suicide yesterday after an altercation with her younger brother over a trifling matter.

The dead was identified as Sohel Razzaq Shimoni, an HSC student and daughter of Abdur Razzaq, assistant engineer of Wasa.

She committed suicide by hanging at the bathroom of her house at Wasa Colony in city's Arambagh area.

Shimoni's family members said she argued with her younger brother Naujul Sabir Parag over playing games on mobile phone at about 12:00 noon. After the row, she went to the bathroom.

After a while, her family members asked her to come out. Getting no response from her, they broke the door and found her hanging with a pipe.

She was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the on-duty doctor declared her dead.

Shimoni got golden GPA in SSC exams in 2006.



PHOTO: STAR

Traders bring in palms to the capital from Gazipur on a boat to reduce transportation costs and to increase their profit. The photo was taken from Nandipara Ghat in Dhaka.



A large puddle on Dhaka-Tongi road at Uttara in the capital poses a hazard to traffic and pedestrians since Roads and Highways Department dug up the road to widen it.

Criminal killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A criminal was killed yesterday in a 'shootout' between police and outlaws at Hakimpur village under Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia.

The dead was identified as Habil Mondol (28), son of Rahim Mondol of Daulatpur upazila.

Sources said VDP members caught two members of notorious Lalchand Bahini -- Ziarul Islam (36) and Habil Mondol -- at Mathurapur village and handed them over to Daulatpur police on Friday.

Police said after interrogation, they took them to Hakimpur village to recover firearms. When the law enforcers reached the Hakimpur ground at about 2:30 am their

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Fresh floods cause huge crop damage

STAR REPORT

Floods in the northern districts claimed the lives of three children and marooned thousands and the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said the situation in those districts is expected to improve within the next three days.

The FFWC yesterday said the water levels of the Brahmaputra-Jamuna basin are falling and would continue to do so during the next 72 hours, which would improve the flood situation in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Jamalpur, Sirajganj and Tangail.

Two children aged three and four drowned in Sirajganj, while a nine-year-old drowned in Fulchhari Extension Department of

SUST student charged for breaking emergency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police submitted charge sheet against a student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) on Friday afternoon for violating Emergency Power Rules (EPR) by bringing out a procession on the campus.

Sub-Inspector (SI) of Kotwali Police Station Abdul Ahad, also investigation officer of the case, filed the charge sheet with Sylhet Sadar Cognisance Magistrate's Court.

Raju's involvement in organising the procession was found to be SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

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Experts allay fear of devastating tsunami

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts yesterday played down the possibility of a devastating tsunami along the Bangladesh coast as the depth of water down the country's shore is fairly low to trigger the giant waves.

They also criticised the government for last week's 'false' tsunami warning at a roundtable on 'Tsunami risk in Bangladesh's coastal areas and what can be done', organised by Paribesh Bachao Andolon.

"Depth of water in 200 kilometres from our shore is 20 to 200 metres, but at least two-kilometre in water depth is needed to create a tsunami. A devastating tsunami like

Bombing, clashes kill 29 in Lanka

AP, Colombo

the one in December 2004 is not possible in Bangladesh due to its better geographical location," said Prof Aftab Alam Khan of geology department at Dhaka University.

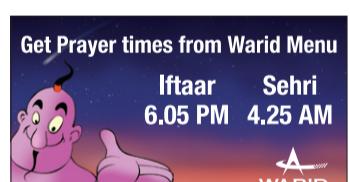
Maksud Kamal, an expert on earthquake and tsunami preparedness, agreed, saying shallow waters in the Bay of Bengal cancels any possibility of a devastating tsunami in Bangladesh.

The experts said any transoceanic tsunami originating in the Java-Sumatra region or elsewhere would not harm Bangladesh as the giant waves would weaken before they reach the country's shoreline.

"Before reaching the country's

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Get Prayer times from Warid Menu

Iftaar Sehri

6:05 PM 4:25 AM

WARID

Sehri, Iftar timing

Ramadan	Sep	Sehri	Iftar
3	16	6:05	4:25
4	17	4:26	6:04
5	18	4:26	6:03

Prayer Timing

September 16

Azan Jamaat

Fajr 4:25 4:35

Zohr 12:45 1:15

Asr 4:30 4:45

Maghrib 6:05 6:20

Esha 7:45 8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Pak presidential polls likely in Oct first week

Musharraf expected to get re-elected

AP, Islamabad

Pakistan's ruling party has enough votes to re-elect President Gen Pervez Musharraf to a new five-year term, and the vote will likely take place in the first week of October, top party officials said yesterday.

An announcement on the date from the Election Commission is imminent, the officials said a day after opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's party announced she would return to Pakistan on Oct 18 after an eight-year exile to campaign in parliamentary elections.

Two officials from the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Q party, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said the presidential vote would take place in the first week of

October. The president, whose term expires Nov 15, is chosen by an electoral college of all national and provincial lawmakers.

"We have enough votes to easily elect President Musharraf for another term," said Azeem Chaudhry, a senior official in the leader's party.

Chaudhry said that during negotiations on power sharing with Musharraf, Benazir had demanded too much from the government in return for backing the military leader. Her demands included that the constitution be amended so she could become prime minister for a third term if her party wins parliamentary elections due by January 2008.

"If we do it, it will send a signal that Benazir Bhutto is the future

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