

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 (ret'd) Subid Ali Bhuiyan, member of Awami League (AL) advisory council,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

# 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 trifle matter.

The dead was identified as Soheli Razzaq Shimonti, 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.

Shimonti's family members said she argued with her younger brother Najul Sabbir 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.

Shimonti got golden GPA 5 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.

## EC to sit with Krishak Sramik Janata League today

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission (EC) will sit with Krishak Sramik Janata League (KSJL) today to discuss its draft proposals for reforms of electoral laws.

Officials said agenda of the dialogue will focus on the Representation of the People Order 1972, the Political Party Registration Rules 2001 and the Election Codes of Conduct 1996.

On September 12, the EC first sat with Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ), a partner of the immediate past BNP-led coalition government, and discussed the reform measures.

The EC has primarily selected 15 political parties on the basis of three criteria, which are also the three major conditions set in the political party registration rules.

Rajuk and the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAAB) in a joint survey in June 2004 identified 111 buildings as hazardous for safe landing and take-off of aircraft at Zia International Airport and Tejgaon Domestic Airport.

The affected building owners on the other hand met the public works secretary on August 27 pointing out

## Committee reviewing high-rise knock-down impact in Tejgaon

TAWFIQUE ALI

A nine-member committee is currently assessing the economic and technical implications of decreasing unauthorised heights of high-rise buildings in the air funnel of Tejgaon airstrip in the capital, in a bid to decide whether or not to demolish those buildings at least partially, according to sources.

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) served demolition notices to the authorities of 26 high-rise buildings in the last week of July this year asking the owners to knock off unauthorised heights of those buildings in compliance with the civil aviation rules.

Rajuk and the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAAB) in a joint survey in June 2004 identified 111 buildings as hazardous for safe landing and take-off of aircraft at Zia International Airport and Tejgaon Domestic Airport.

The affected building owners on the other hand met the public works secretary on August 27 pointing out

## Bhuiyan might go to S'pore today for treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP's expelled secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan is likely to leave for Singapore today for medical check-up.

Ashraf Hossain, former joint secretary general of the party who was also expelled alongside Bhuiyan, told The Daily Star that Bhuiyan would come back in four-five days.

"If he needs to have an operation, he might stay there a few more days," he said.

The Awami League's reformist leader Amir Hossain Amu is also in Singapore for his wife's treatment.

## Ex-MP Gias sued again for extortion

UNB, N'ganj

Another case was filed against former BNP lawmaker Giasuddin on charge of extortion.

Amir Hossain, a lime trader of Siddhirganj area, filed the case with

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## 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 they

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## 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.

Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department of

Manikganj Mokbul Hossain Talukdar yesterday told The Daily Star that the newly planted Amon crops and vegetables have been worst hit by the second spell of floods.

Our correspondent in Netrakona reports: The second round of floods has damaged 7,000 houses, newly planted Amon on around 50,000 hectares, vegetables on 9,000 acres, along with 34 kilometres of river-embankments, seven bridges, and 41 culverts in the district.

Two children aged three and four drowned in Sirajganj, while a nine-year-old drowned in Fulchari

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## 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

## 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

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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Bombing, clashes kill 29 in Lanka

AP, Colombo

A roadside bomb blast and clashes between soldiers and secessionist Tamil Tiger guerrillas across Sri Lanka's volatile north killed 29 people, the military said yesterday.

A bus with soldiers was hit by a bomb planted by the rebels Friday night in the northern Jaffna peninsula, killing two soldiers and wounding seven others, an official at the Defence Ministry's information centre said.

Hours earlier, six Tamil Tigers and three soldiers were killed in a clash in the Vavuniya district south of Jaffna, and eight guerrillas were killed in two separate battles reported there, the official said on condition of anonymity, citing government policy.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Get Prayer times from Warid Menu

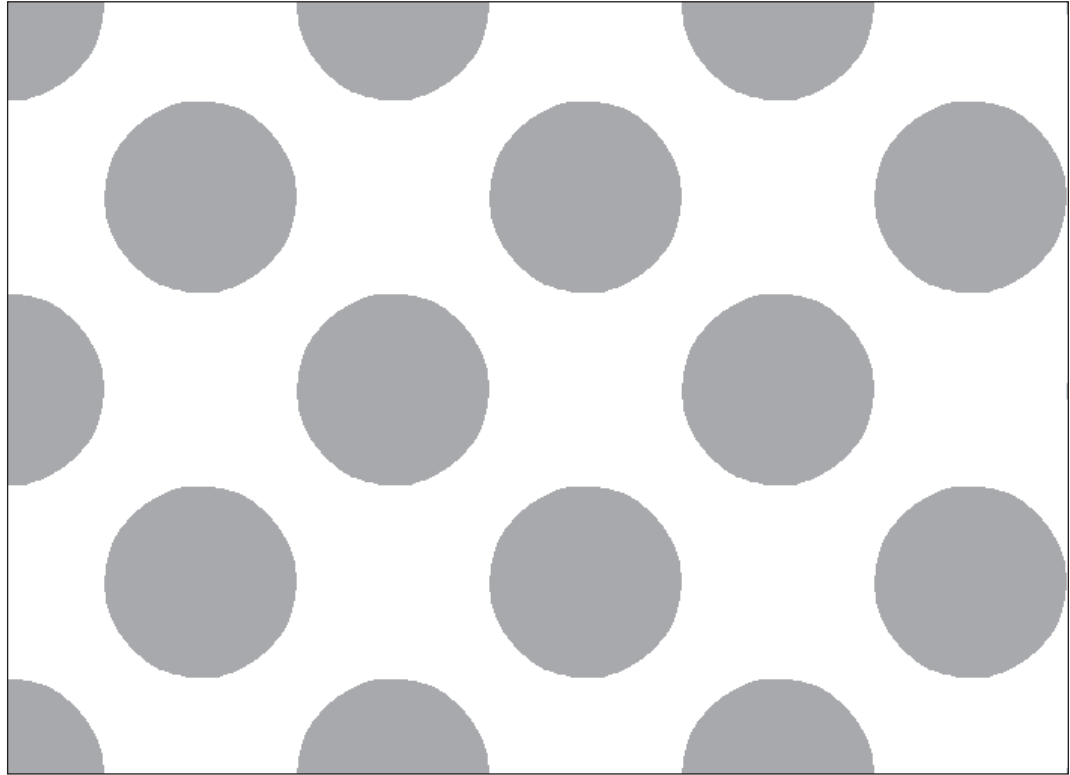
Iftaar      Sehri

6.05 PM    4.25 AM

WARID

Sehri, Iftar timing				
Ramadan	Sep	Sehri	Iftar	
3	16		6-05	
4	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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

