

Eid Mubarak

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High-level meet discusses Better Business Forum

UNB, Dhaka

A high-level meeting yesterday discussed the modus operandi of Bangladesh Better Business Forum being formed to strengthen public-private business entrepreneurship.

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhrudin Ahmed chaired the meeting at his office, a follow up to the highest-level exchange of opinion between the government and the business community held at Hotel Radisson in the first week of last month.

At that meeting, the CA proposed the formation of this new business forum as the caretaker

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

PRESIDIUM MEET AL demands release of Hasina, Jalil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday demanded release of its detained chief Sheikh Hasina, General Secretary Abdul Jalil, and other leaders who are behind bars without any specific charges.

The demand was made at a meeting of AL Presidium, the highest policy-making body of the party, at its acting President Zillur Rahman's Gulshan residence in the capital.

AL also demanded release of the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Last-minute shopping gets momentum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A panjabi is Tk 150, a pair of shoes Tk 300 and a shirt Tk 120 -- the prices are pretty cheap compared to many other malls. But Jasim, who works at a city restaurant, was still roaming around on Bangabandhu Avenue to strike a better deal.

When asked what he had bought so far, he said, "Lungi I've already bought. But I need a pair of shoes and a panjabi to celebrate the Eid."

Like Jasim people from all walks of life thronged the market places

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

8 jute mills to be leased out

Private entrepreneurs to run those including 4 closed ones

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisory committee on economic affairs yesterday approved leasing out of eight state-run jute mills, four of them already closed, to the private entrepreneurs for avoiding loss.

People or companies interested to take out leases on the mills, however, will have to comply with certain conditions, including keeping the existing employees at the operational mills and reinstating the skilled workers of the closed mills who were laid off.

The government will float tender for the lease soon.

On July 18, the government closed Peoples' Jute Mills in Khulna, Karnaphuli Jute Mills and Forat-Karnaphuli Carpet Factory

in Chittagong and Kaomi Jute Mills in Sirajganj, bringing down the number of mills under the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) to 18.

The operational mills to be leased out are Alim Jute Mills in Khulna, and Baghdad-Dhaka Carpet Factory, RR Jute Mills and MM Jute Mills in Chittagong.

The jute and textile ministry earlier forwarded their resolution of leasing out the eight mills to the advisory committee on economic affairs seeking its approval.

"Initiatives have been taken to run these mills under private entrepreneurship in lease arrangement system," Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam said after the advisory committee meeting at the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

ADB pledges \$150m for post-flood rehabilitation

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice-President Liqun Jin yesterday pledged \$150 million in credit for post-flood rehabilitation programme in Bangladesh.

The ADB vice-president made the commitment when he called on Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhrudin Ahmed at his office.

The top executive of the donor agency appreciated the caretaker government's various steps and efforts including the anti-corruption drive, institutional reforms and good governance.

"ADB is encouraged by the performance of Bangladesh," Liqun said.

The CA thanked the ADB vice-president for the bank's substantial assistance in various sectors of Bangladesh, according to his Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim.

He briefed about the background and performance of the caretaker government.

ADB Country Director Hua Du and ERD Secretary Aminul Islam Bhuiyan were also present.

All set for sending 187 artefacts to Paris exhibition

Another case filed challenging the move

PINAKI ROY

The government is all ready to send 187 archaeological masterpieces to a Paris museum for exhibition, but a group of archaeological experts yesterday filed a fresh case against sending the artefacts.

While these artefacts are ready to be sent to the Guimet Museum tomorrow morning by a special cargo aircraft of Air France, the First Joint District Judge's Court of Dhaka served a show-cause notice upon the French ambassador and the cultural ministry secretary asking them to reply why injunction will not be issued against sending the artefacts.

The notice was also served upon Homebound Ltd, the company assigned to carry the artefact to Paris.

The case was filed by Dr Nazimuddin Ahmed, former director of Archaeology Department, Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan, former director general of the National Museum, architect Shamsul Wares, art critic Mainuddin Khaled, and Nurul Islam, a coin expert.

Officials at the cultural affairs ministry said 187 artefacts to be displayed at the Guimet Museum might be flown to France tomorrow morning and officials from Bangladesh High Commission in Paris and Guimet Museum will receive them.

The exhibition has been arranged under a deal signed earlier between the cultural affairs ministry and the French Embassy in Dhaka.

"New date of the exhibition has

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

ACC allowed to quiz Jalil

Charge sheet against Pintu in relief misuse case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday gave permission to the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) to interrogate detained Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil at the Dhaka Central Jail gate in connection with allegations of corruption.

Jalil, after his arrest in May, was moved to a hospital from jail in June following health complications. He is currently at LabAid Hospital in the city.

Meanwhile, the ACC pressed charges against detained former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and one of his accomplices in a case filed in connection with misappropriating corrugated iron (CI) sheets meant for government relief.

JAIL TO BE QUIZZED Metropolitan Magistrate Mizanur Rahman passed the order after ACC's Deputy Assistant Director

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Wages, Eid bonus paid to almost all workers of garment factories

Labour leaders say

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The bulk of the garment factories paid salaries and bonuses to their employees yesterday in line with a government directive to that end, industry insiders said.

Workers, however, took to the streets at a few places in protest at low payment of bonuses, which was quickly solved through negotiation.

This year has seen about 30 percent medium-and-small factories that do not usually pay their workers festivals bonuses comply with the government directive.

"It's a pleasure for workers that most of them have got something for bonus from garment owners, said Najma Akhter, a labour leader.

She said workers who poured onto the streets on the outskirts of the city over the paltry amount of

bonus paid to them were finally calmed through negotiation.

Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said despite fund constraints most of the garments owners have carried out the government order as to salaries and bonuses of employees.

Meantime, a union leader said some small-scale factories, whose businesses are dependent on sub-contracts, could not yet pay any bonus.

Sirajul Islam Rony, convenor of Bangladesh Garment Sramik Oikya Parishad, put the figure of defaulting factories at 400.

The BGMEA president urged the government to provide the industry with low-interest funds because otherwise, he said, a good number

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

British writer Doris Lessing wins Nobel Literature Prize

AFP, Stockholm

British writer Doris Lessing yesterday won the Nobel Literature Prize for five decades of epic novels that have covered feminism, politics as well her youth in Africa.

Lessing, who will be 88 next week, is only the 11th woman to have won the prize since it started in 1901.

The Swedish Academy described Lessing as "that epicist of the female experience who with scepticism, fire and visionary power has subjected a divided civilisation to scrutiny."

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Get Prayer times from Warid Menu

Iftar	5:39 PM	Sehri	4:35 AM
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WARID

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar
29	12		5-39
30	13	4-35	5-38

Prayer Timing

October 12

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	4-45
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-39	5-54
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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