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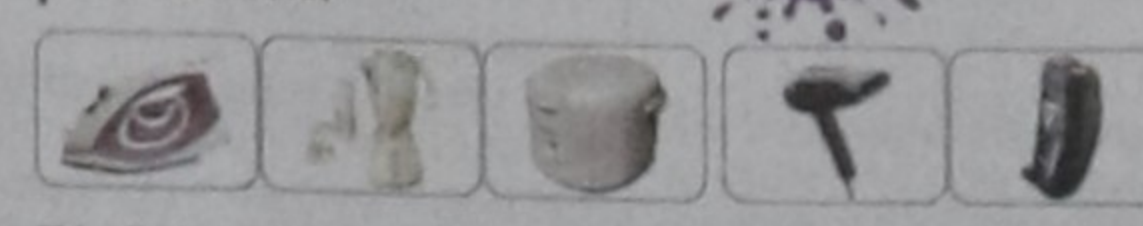
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## BARGE-MOUNT POWER PLANT Warrant against ex-secretary Dr Toufiq

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued warrants against former energy secretary Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury and six others in connection with the Tk 3 crore graft case during the setting up of 100MW barge-mount power plant in Khulna.

In another move a bail petition of detained former premier Khaleda Zia in connection with the Niko scam case was not entertained yesterday, as the court has no jurisdiction to hear on the issue.

After scrutinising the case docket and other relevant documents, Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court took the charges into cognizance against detained former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and seven others in the Tk3 crore graft case.

The court also issued arrest

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## CA asks ministries to execute ADP fast

Only 16pc achieved in 5 months of FY08

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The planning ministry has sent the chief adviser's special directives to other ministries suggesting quick implementation of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) as only 16 percent has been implemented in five months of the current fiscal year (FY).

Of the Tk 26,500 crore ADP for FY08, only Tk 4,168 crore was spent during July-November.

The planning ministry data show Tk 2,542 crore or 15 percent of the ADP's local component was spent, while the spending was Tk 1,626 crore or 17 percent of its foreign component that comes in the form of project aid.

In FY 07, Tk 5,200 crore or 20 percent of the ADP was spent in

first five months.

"We have sent the chief adviser's directives for quick implementation of the ADP in rest of the fiscal year," said a high official of the planning ministry.

"In the directive, the chief adviser has asked all ministries to give full attention to implementing development programmes and take it as a slogan -- implementation, implementation and implementation," the official said quoting from the directive.

After a review meeting on ADP implementation, Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday said the rate of ADP implementation is not satisfactory.

"But I've been assured by officials of different ministries that implementation rate will get a fast

pace after January as most of the projects are now in the tendering process," he added.

"By January 31, the tendering process of the projects, except a few ones, will be completed."

The planning ministry data on ADP implementation by different ministries, from July-October, 2007 show a frustrating picture of some ministries, which got the major stakes of the fund.

Of the 45 ministries and divisions, ADP implementation by 28 ministries was in between 0-10 percent, while Rural Development and Cooperative Division spent the highest 38 percent.

The other ministries' implementation rate was below 20 percent in the first four months of the

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## 'Massive shortfall' of mid-income dwellings in Dhaka by 2010

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The managing director of one of the Dhaka's leading construction groups has warned that the present slump in home building will lead to a massive shortfall of middle-income dwellings in the capital by 2010.

According to Dr Toufiq M Seraj, MD of Sheltech, the annual demand for new middle income dwellings in Dhaka is around 60,000 units, but in recent years developers have only been able to supply around 7,000 per annum.

This year developers will only deliver around 4,000 units and the lack of new projects will store up problems for future years, said Seraj. Behind the decline are the increasing prices of raw materials, the corruption drive and the absence of business friendly policies in the real estate sector, he said.

FULL STORY STAR BUSINESS, PAGE 8



Dhaka Bashi, an organisation of Old Dhaka residents, brings out a colourful procession with kites from Shishu Academy yesterday marking Poush Sankranti, end of the Bangla month of Poush.

## CPD among world's leading think tanks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) has got itself positioned among 228 leading think tanks in the world, while Bangladesh has made it to the list of countries with the largest number of think tanks, having 34 of them.

The list titled The Global 'Go-To Think Tanks' was prepared by The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program of Philadelphia, USA based Foreign Policy Research Institute -- an independent non-profit organisation devoted to advanced research and public education on international affairs, founded in 1955.

According to The Global

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## India, China pledge to boost trade, military ties

AFP, Beijing

China and India pledged yesterday to strengthen trade and military links and seek a solution to a border row, as India's prime minister sought to cement a rapid improvement in ties with a landmark visit.

The friendly atmosphere was tempered, however, by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's call for China to make concessions to reduce a growing two-way trade imbalance.

The Indian leader said he and his host Premier Wen Jiabao signed

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## DU violence probing officer says teachers' link proven

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An investigation officer (IO) of a case, filed in connection with the August violence on Dhaka University (DU) campus, told a Dhaka court yesterday that he submitted the charge sheet against four DU teachers and 15 students as the charges brought against them were primarily proved during investigation.

Sub-inspector (SI) Babul Bhuiyan of Shahbagh Police

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PHOTO: STAR

In a unique demonstration, students of Theatre and Music Department of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday stage Rabin Dranath Tagore's play Raktakarabi near Aparajeyo Bangla on the campus demanding release of arrested DU teachers and students.

Prayer Timing January 15		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Vote for Cox's Bazar, Sundarbans

BSS, DHAKA

Bangladesh's image will be brightened further across the world if the Sundarbans and Cox's Bazar are included in the list of 21 major

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## 7 troops, 23 militants killed in Pak clash

AFP, Islamabad

At least seven Pakistani troops and 23 Islamic militants were killed in a major battle yesterday near the Afghan border, days after Islamabad ruled out direct US military intervention.

Local Taliban commander Faqir Hussain was among the rebels killed in the battle, an official said, after Pakistani Taliban gunmen ambushed a paramilitary convoy in Mohmand district in the troubled tribal belt.

"The militants attacked a security forces convoy and the forces responded with the help of local people, killing 23 of the attackers," military spokesman Major General Waheed Arshad said.

It was the first significant attack in Mohmand which is next to Bajaur district, where al-Qaeda number two Ayman al-Zawahiri is believed to have had a hideout.

The Egyptian-born deputy to al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden narrowly escaped a US air strike on a house in Bajaur two years ago, according to Pakistani officials.

The paramilitary convoy was travelling from a frontier corps camp to the district centre when it was ambushed, triggering a battle that raged for several hours with both sides using heavy weapons.

"Our forces have secured the area and we appreciate the strong cooperation of the local people in fighting the militants," Arshad said.

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## Adcomm clarifies dispute over its rented house

Adcomm Limited clarified yesterday through a news release their position saying that in October of last year, the owner of house No 7/A on Road 41 of Gulshan-2 in the capital where the offices of Adcomm, Signage, and Megavision are situated, refused to accept the monthly rent, when paid.

Farhana Islam, the owner of the house, in a general diary filed with Gulshan police station on Saturday said she had rented out the house to Geetara and her husband on a five-year contract that expired on September 30 last year. She also said she served a notice three months before the expiry of the contract, asking the tenant to leave the house, but they ignore the notice.

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## Coarse rice price up by Tk 1 on retail market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of different varieties of coarse rice went up by at least Tk 1 per kg in Dhaka's retail markets yesterday following a price rise in wholesale markets by Tk 50-100 per maund in the last three days.

IRRI, Gutti and Swarna rice sold at Tk 29-30 per kg yesterday compared to Tk 28-30 on the previous day in retail markets at Karwan Bazar, Moulavibazar and Mohammadpur Town Hall Market.

Wholesale prices of the same varieties of rice went up by Tk 50-100 a maund (37.32 kg) in the last three days at Karwan Bazar, Badamtoli, Babubazar and Mohammadpur Krishi Market.

IRRI sold at Tk 1,050-1,060 a maund, Gutti Tk 1,040-1,090 and Swarna Tk 1,020-1,050 yesterday compared to Tk 980-985, Tk 980-990 and Tk 990-1,000 on Friday.

Retailers claimed that they had to increase prices due to rise in wholesale prices.

"I paid Tk 1,080 for a maund of

recently due to the unhygienic conditions. The agent has yet to send most of the workers for compulsory medical check-ups, while the sick were not promptly attended to, the newspaper reported.

Moshiur Rahman, 32, said they paid agents in Bangladesh between RM 12,000 and RM 15,000 each to come to Malaysia, and many took loans to pay the fees.

"I have a wife and two children in Bangladesh who are depending on me to send money home but without a job I cannot send them anything. I am worried how they will survive."

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## Motia slates govt failure in tackling rice prices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Presidium member Motia Chowdhury yesterday criticised the present government's failure to keep prices of essentials steady and said that people's life have been badly affected by it.

Motia said the price of rice has already reached Tk 40 per kg due to the "unselected" government's highly ambitious budget. She expressed concern that the price of rice could go up to Tk 80 per kg if this government presents yet another budget.

While addressing a programme held at AL's central office on Bangabandhu Avenue Motia said the people's sufferings could only be resolved under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina. Reiterating that AL chief Sheikh Hasina has been arrested on fabricated charges, Motia demanded her immediate release.

At the programme Harun-or-

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