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TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS

GAS, FUEL, FERTILISER
Subsidies at this rate should not continue further

Says finance adviser
UNB, Dhaka

Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam yesterday said subsidies on gas, fuel and fertiliser at the present rate should not continue further as such incentives have long-term adverse effects on economy.

He admitted that there would be some sufferings from the latest hike of compressed natural gas (CNG) price.

"Indeed, there will be some sufferings from CNG price-hike. But how long will you continue to give subsidies on some materials like gas, fuel and fertiliser?" the finance adviser said.

He was talking to journalists on the sidelines of a seminar "Official Statistics: Collection and Dissemination" arranged by Bangladesh Statistical Association at the National Economic Council (NEC) auditorium in the morning.

Presided over by Statistical Association President Prof Quazi Mazharul Rahman, the seminar was

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Indian cabinet
okays investment promotion accord with Bangladesh

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India has approved signing and ratification of an agreement with Bangladesh for bilateral investment promotion and protection.

The approval came Thursday at a meeting of the Indian cabinet presided over by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, said Information and Broadcasting Minister Priyaranjan Dasgupta.

The agreement aims at promoting and protecting the interests of investors of the two neighbouring countries, he said.

"Such agreements increase the comfort level and boost the confidence of the investors by assuring a minimum standard of treatment and non-discrimination in all matters," he told reporters, adding that the agreement is likely to enhance investment flow between India and Bangladesh.

Earlier this year, Minister of State Jairam Ramesh said India has withdrawn the ban on investment flow from Bangladesh but the investment proposals would be judged on a case-by-case basis

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Aug 21 attack was aimed at killing Hasina

Huji leader confesses before court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Harkat ul Jihad (Huji) leader Arif Hasan Sumon in his confessional statement yesterday said that they made the grenade attack on the Awami League rally on August 21 in 2004 for killing Awami League president Sheikh Hasina.

But the attempt failed because of too much hurry, he said before a magistrate confessing to his involvement in the grenade attack that killed 24 people and injured 300 others.

Huji leader Sumon, who was arrested by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on

April 12 from his Mohammadpur residence, gave the confessional statement on the 12th day of his remand in phases.

CID assistant superintendent of police Fazlul Kabir produced Sumon before the court at noon where he gave the confessional statement before Chief Metropolitan magistrate Ismat Ara for about three hours.

According to the court sources, Sumon disclosed that he threw two grenades and one of it exploded.

At least 12 people took part in the attack and after the incident, he left the scene by a bus. As their

mission failed, Huji boss Mufti Hannan rebuked them for it, he added.

Huji leader Sumon also admitted that he had planted a bomb at the Ramna Batamul as part of their 'test case'.

According to CID sources, before his arrest, he had planned to flee to South Africa where one of the masterminds of the attack Maulana Tajuddin is believed to be hiding.

Checking two passports of Sumon, investigators found that he recently obtained visas for South Africa and Zimbabwe.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi talks to Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury at Zia International Airport prior to the Chinese minister's departure yesterday.



Nature makes
cover story on
Bangladesh
scientist

The Nature, an authoritative US science journal and among the most prestigious in the world, has made a cover story on a paper of a Bangladeshi scientist recently.

The paper titled "The draft genome of the transgenic tropical fruit tree papaya (*Carica papaya* Linnaeus)" has been prepared by Prof Magsudul Alam, director of Advanced Studies in Genomics, Proteomics and Bioinformatics at Hawaii University of the USA,

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ARAB NEWS ON ROHINGYAS

Myanmarese refute charges against Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Burmese (Myanmarese) community leaders in Makkah have refuted allegations that Bangladeshis in the kingdom are obstructing progress of Burmese people living there, Arab News reported yesterday.

They protested a Saudi daily report that Bangladeshis were hindering progress of Burmese Rohingyas in the kingdom, and said it created tension between the Bangladeshi and Burmese communities there.

Several leaders of the Burmese community met representatives of the Bangladeshi community to dispel misunderstandings following the report, the Arab News said quoting a Burmese community leader.

These developments took place in the wake of allegations that many Rohingyas committed

crimes but identified themselves as Bangladeshis when Saudi police arrested them.

According to Arab News, an estimated 500,000 Burmese, most of them Rohingyas Muslims, reside in Makkah region, and most do not have contacts with their mother country and have special residential status in the kingdom.

The Burmese leader in Makkah said the situation involving the two communities there would have become volatile if Makkah police had not conducted an anti-crime awareness campaign called "Makkah sans crimes" between April 1 and 17.

As part of the campaign, police visited various suburbs of the holy city -- mainly those with high concentration of Burmese and Bangladeshi residents -- stressing the need for abstaining from crimes. The campaign was also

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KALIHATI TRAGEDY
Future of 14 families now uncertain as bread earners are dead

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

The family members of the 14 weavers who were killed in a tragic accident in Tangail on April 16 have demanded proper compensation from the government as most of the small handloom factories run by the weavers remain closed since the incident.

Demanding exemplary punishment of the persons responsible for the accident, they said now they are passing their days in uncertainty after losing the bread earners of their families.

At least 17 people including 14 weavers of Kalihati upazila in Tangail were killed and 25 others injured as an intercity train rammed a passenger bus on the Elanga Razabari level crossing on Tangail-Mymensingh road on April 16.

The weavers were on their way to a weekly fair at Karaita in Tangail. Of the 14 weavers, 10 were from Rampur village while the rest were from Mominnagar village in Kalihati upazila.

Most of the small handloom factories run by the weavers at Rampur and Mominnagar villages remain closed since the tragic accident.

Ambia Begum, 45, wife of dead

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Baby girl beaten to death by youth at Badda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-and-a-half-year-old girl was beaten to death by a young man at Badda in the city Thursday evening.

Deceased Farzana was the daughter of Badal Bepari, a vendor residing in North Badda.

Witnesses said Farzana and her elder sister Suhada, 7, were playing on an empty plot near their house along with other children when Fazar Ali, 30, came out of a house and started beating her with a bamboo stick.

Critically injured Farzana was rushed to a local clinic where she died immediately after admission.

Local people caught fleeing Fazar Ali and handed him over to Badda police.

Victim's father Badal Bepari filed a murder case against Fazar Ali.

Prayer Timing

April 26

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-29	6-34
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Easy chairs and a piano, top, the monogram of the Tagore Estate and wooden sandals, middle, and a palanquin on display at the Rabindra Memorial Museum at Shahzadpur in Sirajganj.

Tagore memorabilia stolen, many lie in storeroom

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, back from Shahzadpur

A collection of Rabindranath Tagore memorabilia have been stolen and misplaced at the Rabindra Memorial Museum of Shahzadpur upazila in Sirajganj.

Nahid Sultana, custodian of the museum, said a large number of memorabilia including seals of Rabindra Zamindar Estate were stolen and misplaced after the Liberation War.

A number of household materials of Rabindranath Tagore like dishes, bathtubs, hookahs, etc have been left in the storeroom of the museum for a long time, she added. Due to shortage of manpower, showcases and space, the

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The Daily Star

Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

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