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Gloomy GDP forecast comes into question

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud yesterday blasted the World Bank forecast that export growth might fall by 4.3 percentage points and remittance by 20 percentage points this fiscal year due to global economic meltdown.

He said the World Bank made the instead." report acknowledging the ongoing growth rate in GDP, export, remittance

He said the current global financial crisis would not severely affect the economy and exports, especially the export of garmentitems.

"We produce garment products most efficiently in the world as our labour cost is competitive and we produce lowpriced items which have few substitutes," he said adding that these factors indicate that the global recession would not affect the ready made garments (RMG) sector.

"At the same time, our stock market GDP and export. does not have enormous foreign investment, so there would not be any direct elections when a democratic government effect of the global financial crisis on the is formed, the growth rate in different local economy," he said.

ProfWahiduddin Mahmud was speaking at a seminar on "Global Financial Crisis and Its Impact on Bangladesh" jointly organised by the World Bank and

North South University at the university auditorium yesterday.

He, however, said, "It is not the time to debate numbers and figures that the World Bank and International Monetary Fund estimate about declining GDP and export... the government should concentrate on increasing GDP and export

"Even though the global financial crisis has no direct impact on and import but these indicators are now Bangladesh, we should learn some important lessons from the failure of unregulated and ambiguous capitalist economy," said the professor.

Related stories in Star Business

He said the government should take lessons from current financial crisis and asked the government to strengthen the regulatory system and ensure transparency in every sector, including financial institutions, to increase the country's

He hoped that after the parliamentary sectors including export and GDP would be more stable.

Senior economist of World Bank Dr Zahid Hossain in his keynote paper said the global financial crisis would slow the coun-

try's export growth, remittance and GDP.

He described two possible scenarios for export, import and remittance. In the first scenario the export is projected at \$16 billion with a 13.1 percent growth while in the worse-case scenario it is \$15.7 billion with a 11.6 percent growth.

In the last fiscal year, export was worth \$14.1 billion with a 15.9 percent growth. This year's initial projection was \$16.4 billion with a growth of 16.3 percent.

He mentioned that the export growths of China, India and Pakistan have significantly declined in October due to the global financial crisis.

He said even though the growth rates of GDP, export and remittances are now stable, changes can be seen in early 2009.

He also said the remittance is likely to fall due to global economic recession as many developed nations would reduce employing migrant workers.

He suggested that the government prevent financial corruption from crippling domestic banking and non-banking sectors and coordinate policies to avoid beggar-thy-neighbour policies.

Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi, vice-chancellor of North South University, and Dr Mahbub Majumder, professor of North South University School of Business, were also present at the seminar.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

PHILIPS

Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday framed charges against outlawed Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) operative Abu Zandal in connection with the grenade attack on the British high commissioner at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) on May 21, 2004.

The judge also recorded the deposition of prosecution witness Abdul Gaffar and fixed SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Detention of Abbas, Babar illegal: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared illegal the detention of former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas and former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar.

The court also asked the government to release them immediately if they were not arrested in any other cases.

Following two separate SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

ATTACK ON UK ENVOY Huji operative Zandal indicted Thai govt asks army to stay in barracks

Declares emergency in airports

TRANSCOM

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's government asked the military to stay in their barracks yesterday as rumours spread that the army was plotting a coup to end mass protests that have shut down both of Bangkok's airports.

The army denied there was any attempt to topple Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat after months of anti-government protests, but admitted that tanks had moved through an area of the capital near parliament as part of a dis- anybody but is just facilitating official works, play for cadets.

Somehai held an urgent cabinet meeting added. Thursday in northern Chiang Mai city, and declared a state of emergency at Bangkok's two

airports to end the unrest that has paralysed the kingdom and left thousands of tourists stranded.

Somchai confirmed Thursday that the government has imposed a state of emergency at Bangkok's two airports after they were occupied by protesters.

"It is wrong for protesters to take the entire Thai nation hostage," Somchai said in a televised address to the nation.

"The government is not intending to hurt and the emergency will be temporary," he

"I would like to inform all military personnel

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

RPO's proper use vital for strong EC

Says Prof Muzaffer

BSS, Dhaka

Chairman of Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) Prof Muzaffer Ahmad yesterday underscored the need for proper application of the Representation of People order (RPO) for strengthening the Election Commission.

Proper application of the RPO will help strengthen the EC, but there should be a procedure to avoid its abuse, he added.

He disagreed with the political parties' demand for repeal of the section 91 (e) of the RPO and said if the parties abide by the election code of conduct, they have nothing to fear. Prof Muzaffer was speaking at a workshop on "Laws Relating

to Parliamentary Elections", organised by Sushasaner Janya Nagarik (Shujan) at its secretariat in the city. Former adviser to the caretaker government M Hafiz Uddin Khan and Sujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder also spoke.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Emergency to be lifted well ahead of polls

Iftekhar tells EU observers

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said the state of emergency will be lifted well ahead of December 29 general elections and it will be announced soon.

Talking to reporters after a meeting with chief of EU election observation mission Alexander Graf Lambsdorff at the foreign ministry, he hoped that a good election would be held with cooperation from all sides.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

TIGERS VS SA Hosts seize advantage

BISHWAJIT ROY in Centurion

A record South African sixth wicket partnership between Ashwell Prince and Mark Boucher powered the home side to take away Bangladesh's advantage on the second day of the second and final Test at the SuperSport Park here on Thursday.

Bangladesh tightened their SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Manjur, Abbasi join BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

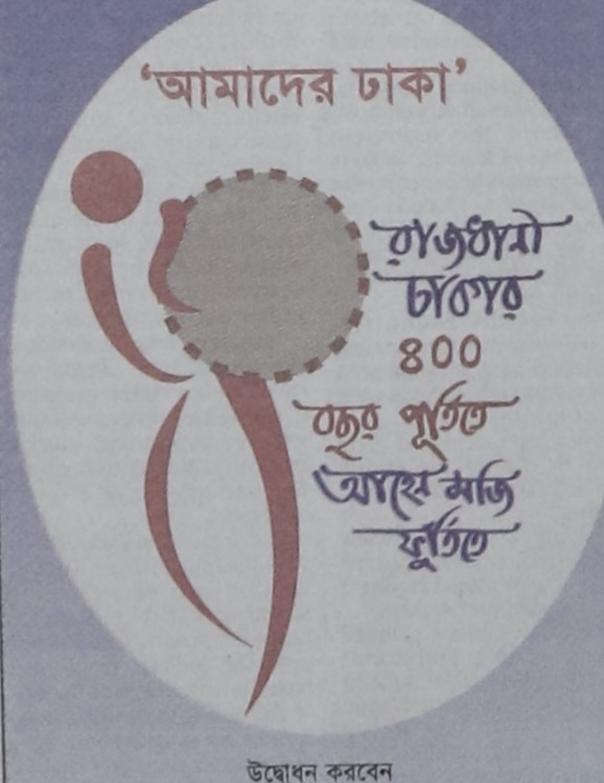
Awami League (AL) leader and acting Mayor of Chittagong M Manjur-e-Alam, local AL leader Shamsul Alam and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leader Abdul Karim Abbasi joined BNP yesterday.

They presented bouquet to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office at a function yesterday evening.



Ahead of the UN conference on climate change in Poznan, Poland, on December 1, more than 1,000 women workers in Dhaka wearing masks of G8 leaders call upon richer nations to do more to help poorer countries like Bangladesh.

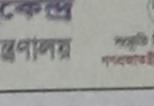
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প্রধান উপদেষ্টা, বাংলাদেশ সরকার তারিখ ঃ ২৮-২৯ নভেম্বর, ২০০৮

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জাতীয় গ্রহকেল্র



RIO WORLD CONGRESS

Vow to combat sexual exploitation of children

RAFFAT BINTE RASHID, from Rio de Janeiro

Vivacious, energetic, contagiously happy; these are the words anyone will randomly pick

to describe a child. The same remains true for the 300 adolescents who have congregated at the World Congress III, in Rio de Janeiro for the cause of combating sexual exploitation of children and

The adolescents here are extremely vocal about their cause and absolutely sure what they want to achieve from this congress.

At a press conference here Wednesday, a child representative from Costa Rico told the press that he wants to address this issue of sexual exploitation on a first hand basis.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

WAR CRIMINALS' POLLS NOMINATION | Huda gets bail

War heroes vow to fight political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF) will conduct campaigns against the political parties that will nominate war criminals as candidates in the upcoming parliamentary elections, SCF Chief Coordinator Lt Gen Harun-ur Rashid said yesterday.

"We shall request political parties not to give nomination to war criminals in the national elections. But if they nominate them, we shall campaign against them and urge the people not to vote for the war criminals," Harun, also former army chief, told journalists during a SCF rally of the family members of liberation war martyrs at Rabindra Sarobar in the capital's Dhanmondi.

He said they would file cases against war criminals after making necessary preparations so that they cannot escape SEE PAGE 15 COL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yester-

day granted two months' adinterim bail to detained former communications minister barrister Nazmul Huda in a bribery case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) under the Emergency SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

| Prayer Timing November 28 | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------|
| | Azan | Jamaa |
| Fajr | 5-10 | 5-4 |
| Juma | 12-15 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 3-45 | 4-0 |
| Maghrib | 5-19 | 5-2 |
| Esha | 7-00 | 7-3 |
| Source: | Islamic Foun | dation |

সম্প্রসারিত উত্তরা ৩য় পর্ব প্রকল্প রাজধানী উনুয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষের সম্প্রসারিত উত্তরা ৩য় পর্ব প্রকল্পে ৩ (তিন) কাঠা ও ৫ (পাঁচ)

কাঠা আয়তনের কিছু সংখ্যক প্লট বরাদ্দের জন্য আগ্রহী বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকগণের নিকট হইতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। রাজউক ভবনস্থিত সোনালী/জনতা/অগ্রণী ব্যাংক এবং মহাখালী ও উত্তরায় অবস্থিত জনতা

ব্যাংক এর শাখা হইতে আগামী ১৭/১২/২০০৮খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত নগদ ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) জমা দিয়া আবেদনপত্রের ফরম ও প্রসপেক্টাস সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে। আবেদনপত্র যে ব্যাংক হইতে সংগ্রহ করা হইবে উক্ত ব্যাংকেই আগামী ১৮/১২/২০০৮ব্রিঃ

তারিখ ব্যাংক চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র জমা প্রদান করিতে হইবে।

বিদেশে অবস্থানরত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকগণ রাজউক ওয়েবসাইট (www.rajukdhaka.gov.bd) হইতে আবেদনপত্রের ফরম ও প্রসপেরাস ডাউনলোড করিয়া প্রসপেরাসে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী পূরণ সাপেক্ষে চেয়ারম্যান, রাজউক বরাবর নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র প্রেরণ করিতে পারিবেন। তবে এ বাবদ ২০ (বিশ) মার্কিন ডলার (অফেরতযোগ্য) জামানতের সঙ্গে জমা প্রদান করিতে হইবে। এতদ্ব্যতীত অনলাইনেও আবেদনপত্র পূর্ণ করিয়া রাজউকের email address (chairman@rajukdhaka.gov.bd) অথবা (info@rajukdhaka.gov.bd) এ প্রেরণ করিতে পারিবেন।

নিম্বর্ণিত আয়তনের পুট বরাদ্দের জন্য বাংলাদেশী আবেদনকারীগণকে জামানত হিসাবে টাকা জমার রশিদ আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে দাখিল করিতে হইবেঃ

ক) ৩ (তিন) কাঠা আয়তনের জন্য টাকা ৭৫,০০০/- (পঁচাত্তর হাজার)।

খ) ৫ (পাঁচ) কাঠা আয়তনের জন্য টাকা ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ)।

নিম্বর্ণিত আয়তনের প্রট বরাদ্দের জন্য বৈদেশিক মুদ্রায় আবেদনকারীগণকে জামানত হিসাবে ইউএস ডলার চেয়ারম্যান, রাজউকের অনুকূলে ব্যাংক ডাফট/পে-অর্ডার প্রেরণ করিতে হইবে

ক) ৩ (তিন) কাঠা আয়তনের জন্য ইউএস ডলার ১৫০০ (এক হাজার পাঁচশত)।

খ) ৫ (পাঁচ) কাঠা আয়তনের জন্য ইউএস ডলার ২০০০ (দুই হাজার)।

কাহারো নিজের নামে অথবা স্বামী/স্ত্রী বা নির্ভরশীল পুত্র/কন্যা বা কোন পোষ্যের নামে রাজউকের মাস্টার প্র্যানের আওতাধীন এলাকায় কোন আবাসিক জমি বা বাড়ি থাকিলে তিনি পুট পাওয়ার অযোগ্য বলিয়া বিবেচিত হইবেন।

আবেদনকারী রাজউক আওতাধীন এলাকায় রাজউক বা অন্য কোন সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি সংস্থা হইতে পূর্বে কোন প্রট বরাদ্দ পাইয়া থাকিলে আবেদনের যোগ্য হইবেন না। ইতোপূর্বে সম্প্রসারিত উত্তরা ৩য় পর্ব প্রকল্পে যে সকল আবেদনকারী পুট বরাদ্দ লাভ করিয়াছেন তাহাদের স্বামী /প্রী/পরিবার/ পোষ্যগণ আবেদন করিতে পারিবেন না।

সম্প্রসারিত উত্তরা ৩য় পর্ব প্রকল্পে ইতোপূর্বে যে সকল আবেদনকারী পুট বরান্দের জন্য আবেদন করিয়া বরাদ্দ পান নাই অথবা জামানতের টাকাও উত্তোলন করেন নাই, তাহাদেরকে নতুনভাবে জামানতের নির্ধারিত টাকা জমা দিয়া দরখান্ত করিতে হইবে। পূর্ববর্তী আবেদন গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে ना।

১০। আবেদনকারীর বয়স অবশ্যই ৩০-১১-২০০৮ তারিখে ন্যুনতম ২৫ (পঁচিশ) বংসর হইতে হইবে

১১। অসম্পূর্ণ/ভুল/মিথ্যা তথ্য সম্বলিত আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।

১২। রাজধানী উনুয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ না দর্শাইয়া যে কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

> চেয়ার্ম্যান রাজধানী উনুয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ

জিডি-৫৫৯২

€EDITOR: MAHFUZ ANAM-Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd. 279 Taggion Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motified C.A., Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld L