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## Exporters to get recession package

### Govt to announce decision within a month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will announce a combined incentive package within a month for different industries including readymade garments to stave off the fallout of the global recession.

It will also revise the present list of the beneficiaries under different programmes including social security network and elderly citizens' allowances.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith said this to reporters yesterday after a meeting with Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leather Goods and Footwear Exporters Association.

Two separate meetings were held yesterday with the finance minister in the chair to discuss the incentive package.

During the meeting the association leaders said the demand for leather in the world market including the USA and UK had dropped due to world economic recession. As a result they have unsold leather worth about Tk2500 crore.

Leaders at the meeting demanded loans from the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## CUFL officials to be grilled today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Investigators today begin questioning those responsible for checking offloading from boats at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) jetty in the early hours of April 2, 2004, when the consignment of deadly weapons and ammunition was seized at the jetty.

CUFL Managing Director (MD) Mohsin Talukder and four other officials arrive today to make their statements to the investigators at the CID, Chittagong office in the afternoon.

Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Muniruzzaman Chowdhury, a senior ASP of CID's Chittagong zone, said they had confirmed over telephone that the CUFL officials would be attending the questioning.

"We will try to find out who were on duty at CUFL that night as well as what they had done to discharge their responsibilities," the IO told The Daily Star yesterday.

Depending on the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

CTG ARMS HAUL

# Top intelligence men partners in crime

STAR REPORT

The then high officials of two top intelligence agencies had knowledge of transporting the 10 truckloads of arms and ammunition, Hafizur Rahman, the main accused in the case, told the court last week.

An investigation has also revealed some proofs in support of his confessional statements, reported Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

National Security Intelligence (NSI) Field Officer Akbar Hossain rented trucks to carry the arms before the consignment was transported to the jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL), sources say.

This officer was attached to the special wing of the NSI Director General in Dhaka from Chittagong two months before the arms seizure.

Conventionally, those working at the special wing are considered sincere and close to the DG.

Despite the fact that Akbar was transferred to Dhaka, he mostly used to stay in Chittagong in the end of March 2004.

According to sources, he stayed in Chittagong continuously for a week before the arms seizure.

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This file photo shows security personnel offloading the arms and ammunition from one of the 10 trucks.

## It all started from Bangkok

STAR REPORT

The plan to transport the huge cache of sophisticated arms and ammunition, seized at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Factory jetty on April 2 2004, was made at Bankapi Royal Rose Hotel in Bangkok.

A number of top leaders of secessionist organisations active in India's north-western states frequented the three-star Bankapi Royal Rose Hotel in the somewhat quiet suburbs of the Thai capital.

Anthony Davis, journalist of internationally-reputed Jane's Intelligence Review, made an extensive investigation into the incident of seizure of huge cache of arms and ammunition in Chittagong. He mentioned the meetings in his report headlined "New Details Emerge on Bangladesh Arms Haul" published in August 1, 2004 issue of the magazine, reported Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

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## Wasa asked to resolve water crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak yesterday directed high officials of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) to have more field visits to problem areas to end the city's existing water crisis.

The state minister made a sudden visit to Wasa office and expressed his dissatisfaction over the poor number of field visits made by its high officials, Wasa sources said.

He suggested that the Wasa involves all lawmakers of Dhaka city to deal with the crisis.

Nanak said the lawmakers will inform Wasa about water crisis in their constituencies and help select locations for setting up new deep tube wells.

Sources said the state minister's visit was intended to step up Wasa activities in order to end the existing water crisis and eradicate the bad

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



The photo shows empty tanks of Dhaka Wasa on Rokeya Sarani after Wasa supplied water to the people of Senpara and Monipur. Locals, who barricaded a road on Friday demanding smooth supply of water, claimed the water Wasa provided yesterday was not even close to what they require.

## DSE's new policy to prevent GP from listing

SARWAR A CHOWDHURY

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday decided not to list any securities with a face value of Tk 1, a decision that will prevent Grameenphone's listing with the stock exchange.

The prospectus of Grameenphone's \$65 million (Tk 449 crore) initial public offering (IPO) is awaiting the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) approval. The face value of each of Grameenphone's share has been fixed at Tk 1, excluding premium.

Experts anticipate that such a decision will discourage other large companies, which are waiting to see the outcome of Grameenphone's listing, to come to the market.

"The unrealistic decision will not be helpful for the market," Salahuddin Ahmed Khan, professor of finance department of Dhaka University, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said if the listing of Grameenphone is delayed or it does not happen at all, big companies including multinational ones will think twice before entering the stock market.

DSE President Rakibur Rahman after a board meeting told journalists, "From now on we will discourage those companies' listings whose shares have a face value of Tk 1. The minimum face value of a share will have to be Tk 10 to get listed on the stock exchange."

The listing rules will be amended to implement the decision made by the DSE board, Rakibur said.

Citing the example of AIMS First Mutual Fund with shares having a face value of Tk 1, he pointed out that retail investors

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Recession weighs in

As the global financial meltdown has bitten the economies at every corner, Bangladesh is poised to feel the pinch.

Since exports and remittances are two major inputs to the country's economy, a negative impact of a prolonged and deepened recession on these two sectors is likely to affect its real estate sector either.

Bangladesh is also facing the challenge of meeting its revenue target this fiscal year.

READ MORE IN STAR BUSINESS

## YouTube blocked

AFP, Dhaka

Bangladesh has blocked the video sharing website YouTube for hosting a recorded conversation between its prime minister and army officers, officials said in Dhaka yesterday.

Internet users were unable to access the site after it hosted the audio tape, which appeared to show angry officers shouting at Sheikh Hasina over her handling of a bloody mutiny that has threatened Bangladesh's recent return to democracy.

The violence in the capital Dhaka 10 days ago left at least

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## MUMBAI ATTACKS

# Interpol finds links of 7 countries

### Pakistan to give Interpol DNA data

ANI, AFP, Islamabad/Lahore

Interpol Secretary General Ronald K Noble has said that links of seven different countries are found in the Mumbai terror attacks that killed more than 170 people.

"Interpol and Pakistan are cooperating with each other to investigate into the Mumbai terrorist attacks, links of the seven different countries are found during the investigation. We are trying to help expose the terrorists

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Nine-year-old Saddam could not continue his study after class-I. Poverty pushed him into hawking books on the street of Chittagong city. Now he tries to quench his thirst by reading the books he sells.

## The future that never came

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

When people move from one situation in life to a better one, they start dreaming of a future they didn't dare look forward to before.

After working as servants for almost 13 years, Firoz Mahmud and Kolpona Begum had both recently started new

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## 100 killed in SL

AP, Colombo

Fierce fighting between Sri Lankan troops and ethnic Tamil separatists defending their last remaining enclave has left about 100 rebels dead in two days of fighting, the military said Sunday.

The army has ousted the Tamil Tigers from most of their strongholds in an all-out offensive the government hopes will end the South Asian island's 25-year civil war.

The rebel holdouts are confined to about 50 square kilometres of jungle and beach near Mullaitivu on the northeastern coast along with tens of thousands of increasingly distressed civilians.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said Sunday that troops had killed about 100 rebels in a series of clashes in

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## BOGRA-7 BY-POLLS

# Moudud gets BNP ticket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

BNP has replaced its nominee for Bogra-7 (Gabtoli-Shahjahanpur) constituency with BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed for the upcoming by-polls.

The party also nominated former speaker of the parliament Jamiruddin Sircar for the Bogra-6 (Sadar) seat.

Both seats were vacated by

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## Ensure smooth power supply for irrigation

### JS body asks ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the power, energy and mineral resources ministry to ensure uninterrupted supply of electricity for irrigation, which is being hampered due to acute power crisis.

The parliamentary standing committee on power, energy and mineral resources ministry also asked the ministry to engage lawmakers and upazila parishad chairmen to monitor the supply of power for irrigation.

The government has already decided to ensure uninterrupted supply of power for irrigation from 11:00pm to 7:00am every day. But ruling AL lawmakers in parliament have

already said farmers are not getting uninterrupted power as per the government measure.

The current demand of power for irrigation across the country is 2,100 MW but farmers are not getting adequate power to run the pumps for irrigation.

State Minister for Power Shamsul Haque Tuku and officials of his ministry did not disclose to reporters how much electricity they are supplying for irrigation.

The power ministry officials, however, said the country has a shortage of 1,200 MW power against its current demand and they are laying emphasis on load management to ensure supply of power for irrigation.

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## Mysterious death of 4 of a family

A CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Four members of a family died mysteriously at Fulkarchar village in Islampur upazila of the district early yesterday.

The victims are farmer Shahjahan Ali, 42, his wife Sabuja Begum, 35, their son

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Prayer Timing		
March 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-10	5-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-07	6-11
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation