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GLOBAL MELTDOWN  
IMF to review  
fallout for  
5 days

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

A mission of International Monetary Fund (IMF) will start reviewing from tomorrow the impact of the global financial meltdown on Bangladesh economy.

The mission during its five-day review is likely to offer financial assistance to Bangladesh under its new lending package. Bangladesh Bank sources said.

The three-member IMF mission led by the Adviser in the Asia and Pacific Department and IMF mission chief for Bangladesh Masato Miyazaki will continue discussion with the finance ministry, Bangladesh Bank, National Board of Revenue (NBR) and other ministries concerned till April 3.

Apart from financial crisis, the IMF team will also discuss

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## Subsidies, not cash incentives

Muhith details govt's bailout plan to tackle financial downturn

STAR REPORT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the government prefers giving subsidies to direct cash incentives demanded by the sectors affected by global recession to offset their losses.

Muhith said it would be unrealistic to offer cash incentives as bailout packages to exporters at this moment since the government has limited resources.

He said he would seek more financial aid from multilateral donor agencies to address the downturn. "It would be difficult to manage the economy during recession if donor agencies do not increase financial aid," he said.

He gave assurance that the government would act wisely so that inflationary pressure does not increase the prices of essentials. "We must create employment and encourage more investment, otherwise the economy will face serious chal-

### BAILOUTS

- Subsidies, not cash incentives
- More aid sought from donors
- Export stabilisation fund offered
- Banks asked to be more helpful

lenges in the near future," he said.

Muhith was speaking at the inaugural plenary session "Macroeconomic Management in the Global Challenges" at the two-day long conference styled "Development with Equity and Justice: Immediate Tasks for the Newly Elected Government" at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

Centre for Policy Dialogue Chairman Dr Rehman Sobhan moderated the session where CPD Executive Director Prof Mustafizur Rahman presented the key-

note paper. Muhith said as per the suggestion of former finance adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, the government would form an "export stabilisation fund" with different stakeholders to assist exporters and ask the private, public and other stakeholders to contribute to the proposed fund.

Pledging to give financial assistance to migrants returning to the country as a consequence of recession, Muhith said the upcoming budget will have a new item named "public-private participation" for the development of infrastructure and creation of more employment.

He said at present there is a substantial amount of money in the wage earners' fund from where the government can provide financial assistance to these returnees.

The finance minister feared 2010 will be more critical because the government

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MORE STORIES IN STAR BUSINESS

## 2 more BDR men died

Authorities tell of their 'long illness'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday disclosed that two border guards have recently died after long illness.

According to its press releases, havildar Solaiman of 45 Battalion died on March 26 at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) and sepoy Roich Uddin of 44 Battalion on March 9 at Kidney Hospital.

Solaiman first got admitted to the BDR Pilkhana hospital following a heart attack on August 28 last year. He got readmitted to the hospital following another attack on January 3 this year, said a release.

He was transferred to NICVD for improved treatment on March 4. There, he died at 6:30pm on the Independence Day.

The statement further said Solaiman applied to the BDR director general (DG) for

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This image taken from private TV channel ATN Bangla shows a BDR jawan, circled, raising arms against another soldier during the looting of BDR arsenal at Pilkhana on February 25. The channel showed CCTV footage yesterday. More photos on page 3.

PHOTO: TV GRAB

## Bhola kids given lessons of jihad

Students tell investigators

STAR REPORT

Maulana Mohammad Russell of Green Crescent Madrasa used to motivate his students to take part in jihad, which investigators believe he did to raise them as militants in the future.

"Our huzur [teacher] Russell often told us that Allah has created us to establish the Almighty's rule through jihad," one of three madrasa students told investigators who visited their homes yesterday.

The sermon was given after Asr prayers," an investigator of the discovery of a mini arms factory at the madrasa told reporters.

Wishing anonymity, the investigator said the students aged between seven and eight were given such preaching to turn them religiously blind and involve them in militant activities.

The madrasa students had to recite the Quran after Fazr prayers and then participate in free hand exercise under Maulana Russell who is now on a 10-day remand for interrogation at the Taskforce for Interrogation cell in Dhaka.

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## No envoys in 12 countries

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Diplomatic relations and efforts to safeguard interests of expatriate Bangladeshi workers are being hampered as Bangladesh has no ambassador in 12 countries, including Malaysia, Belgium and Switzerland.

Three ambassadors have already been called back while the posts of six others will fall vacant by this year, diplomatic sources said.

They said it might affect the interests of Bangladesh that has 47 missions abroad.

Bangladesh's mission in Brussels remains without any ambassador since December 23 last year when the then ambassador, AHM Moniruzzaman, went on Leave Prior to Retirement (LPR) on December 31.

Bangladesh's ambassador to Egypt Nasima Haider also went on LPR leaving the post vacant since January 12 this year.

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## Equal edn, health rights for children

PM says Children Act to be amended

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would revamp the Children Act 1974 suiting the situation of the day to ensure equal facilities for children of all strata of society.

"The Children Act 1974 will be amended to keep pace with the time. Children from capital Dhaka to a remote village will get equal facilities of education and health services," PM said.

The premier unveiled her grand alliance government's egalitarian policy about the rights of the children while addressing the prize giving ceremony of a national cultural competition at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center in the afternoon.

Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore Mela arranged the competition across the country marking the 16th National Children Day

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Hasina to lead team in changing AL constitution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) formed a high-powered committee yesterday with party President Sheikh Hasina as its chairman to amend the party constitution and declaration in line with the Representation of People Order (RPO).

A meeting of the AL Central Working Committee (ALCW) held at the political office of AL president in Dhamondi took the decision. Hasina chaired the meeting.

The meeting also decided to hold party council within the time limit given by the Election Commission (EC) to

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## Sangsad to seal govt's judicial power

RTI bill too to get nod as JS resumes today

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Parliament is scheduled to pass today the much-talked about bill designed to continue separation of the judiciary.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday told The Daily Star that unless the House decides otherwise, the new law will have a provision allowing the government to empower the executive magistrates to take cognisance of offences.

The parliamentary standing committee on the law ministry recommended the provision in its scrutiny report on the bill.

Meanwhile, Parliament Secretariat officials said another crucial bill, Right to Information Act-2009, too has been included in the orders of the day for the House, which returns from a 10-day recess this afternoon.

The bill on RTI was tabled in parliament on February 25 while that on judiciary separation on March 1.

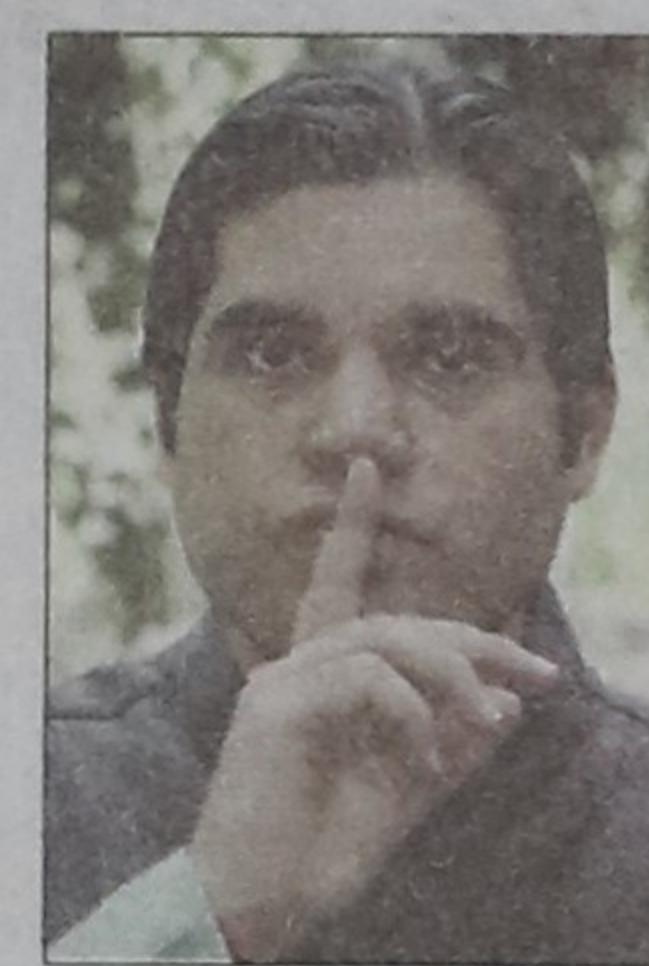
The latter titled Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act 2009 is based on two ordinances amending the CrPC.

The caretaker government promulgated the ordinances in 2007 to separate the judiciary

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Hate speeches land Varun Gandhi in jail

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE,  
Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate Varun Gandhi was Saturday sent to jail here until Monday after he surrendered in a court over his reported hate speeches.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate sent Gandhi to judicial custody until the next

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3 killed in Khulna mud slide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Khulna

A landslide claimed the lives of three labourers on the Chitra at Tero Keda upazila in Khulna yesterday. It also left two others injured.

The dead were identified as Sadi Sheikh, 45, Rasul Khan, 40, and Kamruddin Sheikh, 42,

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