

## 82pc pay boost for govt employees

Pay Commission submits recommendation

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The Pay Commission yesterday submitted its report to the finance ministry with recommendation to increase the salary of government staffs by 82 percent, on an average, with the condition that they pay their own income taxes.

In the report submitted to Finance Minister AMA Muhith at the finance ministry, the 13-member commission recommended Tk 45,000 (fixed) highest salary and lowest basic salary of Tk 4,000, Pay Commission sources said.

A commission member said they suggested cutting down the recommended highest salary if government officials do not pay their income taxes.

	Existing	Recommended
Highest salary (fixed)	Tk 23,000	Tk 45,000
Lowest salary (basic)	Tk 2,400	Tk 4,000

- Additional requirement Tk 6,500cr
- Govt staff to pay own tax
- Education allowance for 2 children
- Retirement age extended to 60yrs

At present the government officials, who have taxable income, pay taxes themselves and the government refunds it to them later.

The Pay Commission report said

around Tk 6,500 crore would be required additionally in the next fiscal year's budget to fully implement the recommendations. The commission said the additional money could be

collected by extending the VAT net, increasing land value and stopping the evasion of tax.

The commission recommended removing unnecessary expenditure and posts. It specified which posts can be abolished and where expenditure could be cut.

After receiving the report, Muhith told reporters, "The Pay Commission members requested me to implement the commission's recommendations at one go. However, there is a question of ability... Whether it can be implemented at a time remains doubtful. I would be happy if it could be implemented at one go but this year we are experiencing recession."

He did not say anything in detail

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

## CONVICTS IN ABSENTIA SC blocks ways to get bail in upper court

Asks Shahjahan Omar to surrender to lower court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court (SC) order yesterday virtually sealed the fate of those who were convicted in absentia for corruption but later got bail as the SC asked one such convict, former state minister for law Shahjahan Omar, to surrender to the lower court where he was tried.

If Omar surrenders, he would be sent to jail as the same court that had sentenced him earlier cannot grant him bail.

His case would now stand as a pointer to about 70 others, mainly politicians and businessmen, who were handed down sentences for corruption after the 1/11 changeover of power.

Those sentenced in absentia in the cases against them include Jatiya Party (Manju)



Shahjahan Omar

Rahman Babu.

A four-member bench of the SC, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, upon a leave to appeal petition filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) stayed the High Court (HC) order that had granted bail to Omar and stayed his conviction in the case.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Boro purchase may begin on May 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering purchasing Boro rice at higher price to benefit the farmers amid low price of rice in the local market. The drive is likely to begin on May 1.

"We have not fixed the price yet. But the Boro price will not be below Tk 20 a kg," Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque told reporters at his office yesterday.

The ministry was supposed to fix the price yesterday but failed due to a dilemma over

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Job switch liberty to put workers' misery to rest

Over 20 lakh Bangladeshis in Saudi Arabia heave sigh of relief

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia now can change their jobs to get better facilities as the Saudi Council of Ministers Monday passed a series of regulations facilitating transfer of jobs of people employed by operation, maintenance, catering and cleaning companies in government departments.

Over 20 lakh Bangladeshis have been working in the oil-rich Gulf country while most of them doing such jobs, sources

said.

"The Bangladeshi workers who have left jobs for low salaries or other reasons and even whose job contract period is over now can change their jobs," an official of expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry told The Daily Star yesterday.

In Saudi, job transfer was restricted to the workers and their work permits were not renewed generally for which many Bangladeshis had to either do jobs 'illegally' or were forced to return home, But

now as they can change jobs, they will not have to face such situation, recruiting agency sources said.

Even earlier workers were subjected to exploitation, as Saudi employers used to retain foreign workers' passports to prevent them from leaving jobs, but the new regulation on job transfers would help reduce such abuses, experts said.

Since imposing a partial ban on recruiting workers in March last year, many Bangladeshi workers in Saudi

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

## Expatriate welfare bank pledged

UNB, Makkah

Bangladeshi expatriates in Saudi Arabia have expressed interest to invest in reopening and reviving the country's closed and sick industries.

In response, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina assured them of providing all necessary cooperation to make the best use of their hard-earned money through investment in various development sectors.

The expatriates at a reception at a hotel in Makkah on Wednesday pledged to extend every support to the three-month-old government to implement all its development plans and projects.

Hasina informed the gathering that the government has already decided to establish 'Expatriate Welfare Bank' for safe

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



## JS body asks for report on 4-party's power sector spending

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary committee yesterday asked the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources to place a detailed expenditure report regarding power generation during the BNP-led four-party alliance government's tenure, before the committee in its next meeting.

"We are trying to get a picture as to how much money was 'misused' and 'grabbed' from the funds allocated for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Chickens crammed into a cage at the poultry wholesale market of Tejgaon stick their heads out of the cage and gasp for air yesterday as the heat becomes too much for them.

## 22 held in Barisal on suspicion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested 22 people, including 21 female, in Barisal yesterday. Some religious books were seized from their possession.

Rab officials at a press briefing said they were arrested on suspicion of criminal activities.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

### OnlinePoll

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil claims he was tortured by DGFI in custody. Should DGFI be reformed? Yes

○ Yes (55.03%)  
○ No (36.69%)  
○ No Comments (8.28%)

Total votes: 725

## Return of a godfather

N' ganj businesses shudder as Shamim Osman gets back to 'his usual self'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After around eight years in hiding abroad, former Awami League lawmaker Shamim Osman, the once feared godfather of organised crime in Narayanganj, is getting back to 'his usual self', fear locals.

Accused in 11 cases and sentenced to over 11 years in prison in absentia, he is trying to regain the lost turf by means of terror and intimidation in the town.

With the case proceedings against him stayed by the High Court, he now moves unchallenged.

Contacted, local administration and law-enforcement officials said they can do little in this regard as an HC stay order is in force.

However, yesterday's Supreme Court (SC) ruling on ex-state minister Shahjahan Omar suggests things might change considerably.



Shamim Osman

The apex court directed the BNP leader to surrender to the trial court in the case he was tried and sentenced in absentia. Earlier, Omar obtained bail and a stay order from the HC on the case proceedings.

Observers say the same might happen to Shamim Osman whom made his first public appearance since 1/11 at a rally in Narayanganj on April 17.

There, he announced, "The party (AL) won't run on government dictates, quite the contrary."

The following day, his men started making phone calls to local traders for money, said several businessmen requesting anonymity.

They said they are most probably in for conditions similar to those during the last AL government. But for fear of reprisal, they do not plan to lodge any formal complaints.

During his reign of terror in 1996-2001, the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Ctg Port operations resume partially

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Operation of larger vessels at Chittagong port resumed partially yesterday morning as all nine vessels with export cargoes left their jetties.

However, vessels waiting at the outer anchorage for berthing at the port are yet to get entry clearance.

The Chittagong Port Authorities (CPA) suspended vessel operations to and from the country's premier seaport on Tuesday night following capsizing of a cement-clinker laden vessel at the estuary of river Karnaphuli.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## Revoke notice on Khaleda in 5 days

Her lawyer asks govt in legal notice regarding cantonment house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A legal notice has been served on behalf of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on the government yesterday to withdraw or revoke within five days its notice for vacating her Dhaka Cantonment residence.

Barrister AM Mahbubuddin Khokon, on behalf of his client Khaleda Zia, sent the notice yesterday morning through a courier service and a registered post.

Defence secretary, cabinet secretary, director of the Military Lands and Cantonments Directorate, military lands administrator and military estate officer have been made respondents to the notice.

On April 20, the Directorate of Military Lands and Cantonments issued a notice asking the former prime minister to vacate her house within 15 days.

"Appropriate legal action would be taken if the government does not withdraw or revoke the notice served on Begum Khaleda Zia," says the notice served on the government.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## WATER, POWER CRISES BNP declares month-long programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday announced month-long agitation programmes from May 5 protesting 'the government's failure to rid the people of electricity, water and gas crises.'

The programmes include protest rallies, processions and human chains in all upazilas, districts and divisional towns, said BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain at a press conference at the party chairperson's Gulshan office.

"As a popular political party we cannot remain silent

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



**MILNARS PUMPS LIMITED**  
(Formerly KSB Pumps Co. Bangladesh Ltd.)

A CONCERN OF AFTAB GROUP



Centrifugal Pump



Sluice Valve



Reflux Valve



Deepwell Turbine Pump



Domestic Pump (Monobloc Centrifugal Pump)



High Pressure Multistage Centrifugal Pump



Non-clogging Sludge Pump



Submersible Motor Pump

THE ONLY PUMP & VALVE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN BANGLADESH

**AFTAB GROUP**  
Azharul Islam & Iftekharul Islam Enterprise

Head Office: Uttara Bank Bhaban (4th & 5th Floor), 90 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Tel: 956-3436, 956-3526, 01197-245474  
Fax: 880-2-9563319, 9559431, E-mail: <milnars@bdmail.net> Web: www.milnarspumps.com Factory: 89-90 Charagali, Tongi I/A, Gazipur, Tel: (02) 980-2385

