



Deep sea port to get going from 2016

Govt says construction to start by next yearend

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The construction of a deep-sea port will begin by the end of next year following completion of its design, the government announced yesterday, envisaging that the port will have an enormous positive impact on the country's economy.

During the first phase of the port construction, the country's GDP will grow at the rate of .11 percent to 1.63 percent a year. The total impact on GDP in five years is expected to be 5.02 percent, says the final draft of a techno-economic feasibility study of the much awaited port.

The study, submitted to an inter-ministerial meeting at the shipping ministry yesterday, says the port will generate massive employment and earning opportunities, contributing to the growth of the national economy.

"The port will come into operation in the fiscal year 2016-17, as we hope to complete construction of the first phase by 2015 at a cost of 13,000 crore taka," Shipping Minister Mohammad Afsarul Amin said after the meeting.

Asked about the economic impact of the port, he said the deep-sea port will boost export-import trade. About its impact on eco-

nomie growth he however said the growth will increase by 1.5 percent.

The second phase will be completed in 2035 at a cost of Tk 26,000 crore, and it will turn into a modern full-fledged international port with the completion of the final phase of construction by 2055. The final phase will cost Tk 1,100 crore.

Afsarul Amin said it will take a year to have a complete design of the port. He said the project will be sent to the Economic Affairs Division before its submission to the cabinet.

The port, which will be constructed at Sonadia Island in the Bay of Bengal, will massively increase the country's capacity to handle cargo.

"The carrying cost of both incoming and outgoing goods will come down significantly as the port will become a regional hub handling a massive traffic," said the shipping minister.

According to the feasibility study, a total of 16 container berths, including nine international ones will be constructed in the first phase.

The minister had earlier said the project will be implemented with public-private joint investment, and if necessary shares will be floated on the capital market.

The shipping ministry took up the deep-sea port construction as a priority project in 2004

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday talks to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the NAM summit in Egypt.

PHOTO: PID

Extortionists take over city bus terminals

Collect tolls, as they say, for ruling party men, law-enforcers

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Some extortionist groups are collecting tolls in the names of ruling party men and law-enforcers from the city's bus terminals—a phenomenon that has started in recent times after a halt of over two years.

"To depart from Sayedabad bus terminal, I have to pay Tk 150 as GP (GP is a local name of toll) to route committee men, Tk 40 to Dhaka City Corporation men as parking charge while Tk 10-20 to off duty transport workers as Khoraki Bhata (food allowance)," said a bus driver of Isakhan Bus Service plying Dhaka-Kishoreganj route, wishing anonymity.

He said besides Tk 210 to different groups as toll against per trip from the terminal, the route committee also col-

lects Tk 200 against a bus per month in the name of law enforcers for using the terminal.

Over Tk 4 lakh is extorted from Sayedabad terminal each day, as over 2,000 buses use it, sources at the terminal said.

Mohammad Tofael, secretary of Isakhan route committee at Sayedabad, who is also a Jubo League leader of ward no 3 of Siddhirganj, said they collect the money for giving wages to staffs at the counters as well as bus supervisors and linesmen and for meeting printing cost of tickets.

He said he has to maintain the safety of buses of Isakhan when they reach Dhaka and for this he has to provide money to different quarters.

DCC Assistant Manager at the terminal Golam Sarwar said "We realise Tk 40 against a bus for maintaining expenses of sweepers, sitting arrangements at passenger sheds, electricity and sewerage bills and others. The amount also includes parking charge of the buses. We give slips against the collection."

Sources at different terminals said the ruling party men have taken charge of the transport workers' unions and owners' association offices in the capital within three months of the Awami League-led grand alliances coming to power in January.

Three rival pro-AL committees claim their authority simultaneously on Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Samity (DSPA), which is

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PARTY CONSTITUTION EC decides today how to deal with defaulters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission may decide today the next course of action on registered political parties' probable failure to comply with the law and their own pledges to submit ratified party constitutions to the commission by July 25.

A meeting of the EC will be held today on the matter upon Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda's return from abroad.

Before the ninth parliamentary elections political parties were asked to bring

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BPC runs short of its 'fuel'

Seeks block allocation from govt to continue operation

RASHIDUL HASAN

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation has sought a block allocation as grant from the government to import a month's crude and refined oil as the state-run organisation is now short of working capital.

BPC high-ups made the appeal yesterday at a meeting with the parliamentary standing committee on public undertakings at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body expressed dissatisfaction over the poor maintenance of the BPC accounts and asked them to make it up to date.

The BPC in its report placed at the meeting said it has to depend heavily on loans to meet

the expenses for import of crude and refined oil as it is short of working capital now.

The report said the BPC took a loan of Tk 6,362.08 crore in fiscal year 2007-08.

The BPC said the Bangladesh Bank has declined to give loans to BPC although it has paid off all loans it took from the central bank.

The BPC has not had its report audited since 2005, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, chairman of the parliamentary body, told reporters at the Jatiya Sangsad media centre after the meeting.

The committee asked the BPC to increase the Eastern Refinery's capacity for refining crude oil.

Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal, Biren Sikder, among others, were present at the briefing.

Rab nabs 4 JMB men in 3 days

Recovers 38 grenade shells

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion arrested four members of the banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh at the city's Rupnagar, Kanchpur in Narayanganj and in Jamalpur during the last three days.

The Rab personnel also seized 38 shells of grenades and a large number of books

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Emajuddin exonerated

HC frees him of contempt charge upon apology

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday exonerated former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed from the contempt of court charge regarding proclamation of independence after he sought unconditional apology in black and white.

The HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and

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Prayer Timing		
July 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	6-00	6-15
Maghrib	7-54	7-58
Esha	9-15	9-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

A procession of motorbikes welcomes LGRD State Minister and Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanak to Chittagong, triggering citywide traffic jams yesterday.

Private medical college shut

40 hurt as students clash with staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 40 students and staffers of a private medical college in Ashulia were injured yesterday as they were locked in a clash.

Angry students ransacked the college and its hospital after the authorities closed the college and all its dormitories for sine die.

Students of Nightingale Medical College have been demonstrating for a long time demanding appointment of more teachers, improved diet and pathology laboratory.

Sources said all 165 students of fourth batch became furious at about 10:00am after they had seen the notice saying the college had been closed.

Witnesses said agitated students vandalised machinery, equipment and furniture of the college and hospital.

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BSF kills cattle trader

UNB, Rangpur

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday shot dead a Bangladesh cattle trader on Bhurungamari border.

The deceased was identified as Anwar Hossain, 35, hailed from Dhaladanga village.

The body of Anwar, thrown into the river after killing, was rescued from under the Pateshwari Bridge.

Police said the body bore mark of bullet wound close to his left eye.

Reckless force used in Gaza, say Israeli troops

AGENCIES, Tel Aviv

A group of soldiers who took part in Israel's assault in Gaza say widespread abuses were committed against civilians under "permissive" rules of engagement.

The troops said they had been urged to fire on any building or person that seemed suspicious and said civilians were sometimes used as human shields.

Breaking the Silence, a campaign group made up of Israeli soldiers, gathered anonymous accounts from 26 soldiers.

Israel denies breaking the laws of war and dismissed the report as hearsay. The Israeli military accused the group of "defaming and slandering the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) and

its commanders."

"The IDF is one of the world's most moral armies and operates according to the highest moral code," Defense Minister Ehud Barak said in a separate statement.

In testimonies collected by Breaking the Silence, soldiers who participated in the three weeks of Gaza fighting describe demolishing homes and using firepower beyond what was necessary given the relatively light resistance they encountered.

None of the soldiers was identified, and no dates or locations were provided for the events they recount. The report did not look at the actions of Palestinian militants during the fighting.

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Aminul, Dulu, Nadim sued for helping militancy

UNB, Rajshahi

Two more cases were filed yesterday against former telecommunications minister barrister Aminul Haque, deputy minister for land Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu, ex-MP Nadim Mostafa and 101 others on charges of patronising militants and committing extortion and repression.

Names of Haque, Dulu and Nadim—the three influential leaders of the then ruling party, BNP—were mentioned in both cases.

Mozaffar of Khalishpara and Ibrahim Hossain of Kathalbari village in Bagmara upazila filed the cases against

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OnlinePoll

Do you think the government is showing laid-back attitude in improving the deteriorating law and order situation?

Yes (90.0%)
No (7.8%)
No Comments (2.2%)

Total votes: 1047

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Anti-Corruption Commission is considering withdrawing cases including cases against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina under pressure?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net