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# Donors to help in PRSP plan

Ask for proper implementation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Donor countries gave assurance yesterday that they would help Bangladesh in implementing the revised Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) but they laid more emphasis on its proper implementation.

The assurance came after Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Planning Minister AK Khandker jointly placed the second PRSP to the Local Consultative Group (LCG), a forum of Bangladesh's development partners.

The PRSP was presented at a meeting with the LCG held at the auditorium of National Economic Council (NEC) in the planning commission.

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) Country Director in Bangladesh Chris Austin led the LCG. World Bank Acting Country Director Robert L. Floyd

and other representatives were also present. The government at the meeting presented an estimated total expenditure of Tk 3,750.86 billion for the revised PRSP for the fiscal year (FY) 2009-11.

Of the total expenditure, Tk 2,590.40 billion is estimated to be collected from internal resources with a deficit of Tk 1,160.46 billion.

Meeting sources said, the donors assured Bangladesh of the financial assistance but didn't say who would provide how much. It would be conveyed to Bangladesh at the next meeting of Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) likely to be held early next year.

The donor countries emphasised the need for its implementation free from corruption, sources added.

Asked whether assistance had been sought from the donors to meet the expenditure of gas

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Durga Puja begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the second day of five-day long Durga Puja, the Hindu devotees will celebrate the Mahasaptami today marking Goddess Durga's victory over demon Mahishashura.

The victory of Durga, daughter of the majestic Himalayas, over the devil symbolises the triumph of good over evil.

On Mahasaptami Puja today, the devotees will recite hymns and offer flowers seeking blessings from Durga the Durgatinashini—saviour of humankind from all evils.

The devotees across the country yesterday celebrated Mahashashthi on the first day of Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of Hindu community, through blowing conches, ringing bells and cymbals, and booming drums

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: SHAFIQUL ALAM

The Hindu community celebrates the first day of their biggest religious festival Durga Puja with due grace and festivity.

## COX'S BAZAR BEACH 1 body found, 2 missing in danger zone

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The body of one of the three tourists, who went missing while bathing beside the Cox's Bazar sea beach on Wednesday, was found floating yesterday about 1.5 kilometres off Laboni Point.

Shahed, 21, along with his friends Azim and Sohel from Geneva Camp in Dhaka went missing while bathing in the danger zone at Laboni Point.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

## CRISIS IN CTG BNP Top leaders fight for supremacy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Factions are appearing in Chittagong BNP again as lawmaker Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and Abdullah Al Noman are reportedly wrangling over supremacy in Chittagong BNP.

Abdullah Al Noman is the joint secretary general of the party while Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, now BNP Chittagong City convener, and Mir Nasir Uddin, the international affairs secretary of the central BNP committee, are reportedly backing Noman.

Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury holds no key post in the party but has a strong hold in Chittagong BNP. He recently

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## 3 sisters drowned in Padma

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Three sisters drowned in the Padma river in Munshiganj yesterday leaving their parents and relatives shell-shocked.

The dead are Riya Akhter, 19, and Mansura Akhter, 17, daughter of Tadbir Halder, a businessman from Islampur, and their cousin Borsha Akhter, daughter of Abdur Rab.

Family members say the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## CLIMATE CHANGE FALLOUT Dhaka seeks \$5b in compensation

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has sought 5 billion US dollars from the developed countries in compensation as an affected country due to climate change caused by global warming.

An official announcement in Dhaka yesterday said, State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud placed the demand during a high-profile meeting of the United Nations on environment affairs.

The meeting was presided over by UN

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday afternoon.

While presenting the country statement on behalf of Bangladesh, Hasan said, "Bangladesh is not responsible anyway for the worldwide environmental problems whereas it is in the most vulnerable position as a nation at risk."

To recoup the loss Bangladesh has incurred due to climate change, Dhaka sought \$ 500 million on an urgent basis as financial assistance from the UN and developed countries.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## 3 held for 'JMB link'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested three people at Shantipur under Matiranga upazila of the district for their alleged involvement with the outlawed militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

The arrestees were identified as Mohammad Delwar Hossain, 40, son of Mohammad Idris Miah of Kishoreganj, his associate Mohammad Zahid, 25, of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Uttara roads in bad shape

Large potholes make movement difficult

HELEMUL ALAM

Shopkeeper Roni was returning to his shop a few days back by a rickshaw-van after buying three sacks of rice from Tongi. Suddenly the rice sacks fell into a ditch of muddy water as the rickshaw-van collapsed on a road under Sector-10 of Uttara Model Town.

"I have suffered a loss of Tk 10,000 as I could not recover the rice sacks from muddy water," said Roni as his face looked pale.

This is not a single story. Breakdowns of rickshaw, rickshaw-van and other vehicles are regular phenomena on the roads under sector-10 of the model town. Condition of the roads is so bad that vehicles have to bump all along.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Poor construction and supervision by the administration concerned made this road in Uttara [Rd#1, Sec-10] improper for both pedestrians and vehicles. The covered van is desperately avoiding the ditches for safety.

PHOTO: STAR

## Mismanagement at Nat'l Eidgah under probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a probe committee to investigate whether there was any negligence of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) in preparing the Jatiya Eidgah for Eid-ul-Fitr jamaats last Monday.

The two-member committee headed by additional secretary of LGRD and cooperatives ministry has been asked to submit its report in seven days.

LRGD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam at his ministry told the reporters that there had been sheer negligence on the DCC's part in making adequate preparations for the Eid jamaats and the ministry has directed the committee to investigate the matter.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## Water detected in Moon's soil

BBC ONLINE

A surprising amount of water has been found to exist in the Moon's soil.

Data from three spacecraft, including India's Chandrayaan probe, shows that very fine films of H<sub>2</sub>O coat the particles that make up the lunar dirt.

The quantity is tiny but could become a useful resource

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

### OnlinePoll

In view of the recent earthquakes, do you think the government should immediately launch quake preparedness program in the country?

☒ Yes (86.7%)  
☐ No (12.2%)  
☐ No Comments (1.1%)

**Total votes: 1025**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia that the government could not implement any of its election pledges in last nine months?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

Prayer Timing		
September 25		
Fajr	Azhan	Jamaat
5:35	5:35	6:10
Juma	1:30	2:15
Asr	5:15	5:30
Maghrib	7:00	7:05
Esha	8:30	9:00

Source: Islamic Foundation

## New vaccine helps prevent HIV infection

AP, Bangkok

For the first time, an experimental vaccine has prevented infection with the AIDS virus, a watershed event in the deadly epidemic and a surprising result.

Recent failures led many scientists to think such a vaccine might never be possible.

The vaccine cut the risk of becoming infected with HIV by more than 31 percent in the world's largest AIDS vaccine trial of more than 16,000 volunteers in Thailand, researchers announced Thursday in Bangkok.

Even though the benefit is modest, "it's the first evidence that we could have a safe and effective preventive vaccine," Col. Jerome Kim said in a telephone interview. He helped lead the study for the US Army, which sponsored it with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

The institute's director, Dr Anthony Fauci, warned that this is "not the end of the road," but said he was surprised and very pleased by the outcome.

"It gives me cautious optimism about the

possibility of improving this result" and developing a more effective AIDS vaccine, Fauci said in a telephone interview. "This is something that we can do."

Even a marginally helpful vaccine could have a big impact. Every day, 7,500 people worldwide are newly infected with HIV; 2 million died of AIDS in 2007, the UN agency UNAIDS estimates.

"Today marks an historic milestone," said Mitchell Warren, executive director of the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition, an international group that has worked toward developing a vaccine.

It will take time and resources to fully analyse and understand the data, but there is little doubt that this finding will energise and redirect the AIDS vaccine field," he said in a statement.

The Thailand Ministry of Public Health conducted the study, which used strains of HIV common in Thailand. Whether such a vaccine would work against other strains in the US, Africa or elsewhere in the world is unknown, scientists stressed.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Burglary at DMCH

Surgical instruments stolen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Burglars stole surgical instruments from the Operating Theatre (OT) of Dhaka Medical College Hospital's (DMCH) Neurology Department sometime between Wednesday afternoon and yesterday morning.

DMCH sources said the patients scheduled to have surgical operation in the OT were sent back due to lack of instruments yesterday.

Sub-inspector Wahidur Rahman Majumdar of Shabbagh Police Station said burglars breaking open the grills on the backside of the OT room stole at least 37 types of instruments.

But Brig Gen Bazle Kader, director of DMCH, could not be reached over phone.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Know Bangladesh Better

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