

Graft suspects

FROM PAGE 1
It would have to make a new provision in the budget for that purpose, finance ministry sources said.

Agovernment agency, which was very active during the caretaker government's rule, collected the money from individuals arrested on charges of corruption and money laundering and deposited it to the exchequer.

Names of a few of these 16 institutions and persons appeared several times in the media as they deposited money on different dates. Two of them deposited money in foreign currencies.

Bashundhara Group and its sister concern East West Property Development deposited Tk 256 crore in five instalments.

James Finley deposited Tk 238 crore in two instalments. AB Bank deposited Tk 190.41 crore and the AB Bank Foundation gave Tk 32.13 crore.

Swadesh Properties deposited Tk 9 crore, Hosaf Group Tk 15 crore, Eastern Housing (Islam Group) Tk 35 crore, Partex Group Tk 15 crore and Elite Paints Tk 25.44 crore, all in two instalments.

Tk 8 crore was realised from Concord Engineering and Construction, Tk 7 crore from Concord Real Estate and Building Products, Tk 1 crore from Asian City, Tk 6.41 crore from Pink City, Tk 19.45 crore from Bangladesh Ship Breakers Association, Tk 1.30 crore from Amin Mohammad Group, Tk

4,000MW

FROM PAGE 16
after holding a meeting with the representatives of Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (IDCOL) at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) yesterday.

Refuting the press reports that there has been no step taken for generating more electricity in last one year, the finance minister said, "Much time is needed to complete the process for setting up a big power plant."

"We have completed the preparation. We will be able to fulfil the target of power generation as envisaged in our election pledge."

Muhith said power crisis is one of the major causes of prevailing sluggish investment. The government is alert to take necessary steps to augment power generation.

Severely criticising the reports published in a section of the press questioning the honesty of the prime minister's energy adviser Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, the finance minister said, "The propaganda against the energy adviser is being unleashed to thwart the development initiatives of the present government."

Some political quarters were also involved in the propaganda against the energy adviser, Muhith alleged.

Earlier IDCOL, a fully government owned public limited company and a non-bank financial institution, paid Tk 6 crore to the government as dividend for the year 2008-09.

ERD Secretary and IDCOL Chairman Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan and IDCOL Executive Director and CEO Ismail Sharif handed over the dividend cheque to the finance minister.

Bus fare row

FROM PAGE 1
Officer-in-Charge of Shahbagh Police Station Rezau Karim said around 15 students of DU vandalised the ticket counters and the vehicles parked in and running through the area.

"We picked some of the students to prevent them from continuing the destruction and later freed them," the OC said.

Officials at DU Medical Centre said they referred two students to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after providing them with first aid.

But DMCH sources said no DU students were admitted to the hospital till 7:00pm.

Mohammad Rubel, a staff of Metro Paribahan, said the employees attacked the students for trying to get on a bus of Super Paribahan without paying the fare. About half an hour after the attack, a group of 15 to 20 students came and rampaged through the street.

Employees at the bus counters in Shahbagh alleged that earlier on Monday, some students realised Tk 20,000 from a bus owner saying that pickpockets took away the same amount from one student while being on the bus on Motijheel-Cantonment route.

"The bus employees were angry with the students since Monday and the attempts by students to travel without paying bus fare might have caused the attack," the OC said.

Same offence

FROM PAGE 16
Three alleged accomplices are still being sought by police.

The crime was committed after Fazeelat Bibi's parents refused to give her hand in marriage to Sher Mohammad, Qadir said.

Islamic laws were introduced in Pakistan during the military regime of General Ziaul Haq in the 1980s.

The BBC's M Ilyas Khan in Islamabad says punishments prescribed under the laws have rarely been awarded, and never carried out.

Pakistani human rights activists have long campaigned for more to be done to stop attacks against women, which often include facial disfigurement.

However, they also disagree with the type of punishment handed out in Lahore, correspondents say.

Tobacco

FROM PAGE 1
"Overall economic loss due to tobacco use is very high in fact," said Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque while speaking at the launching ceremony of the report as a chief guest.

Use of tobacco is directly linked to health and it is responsible for different non-communicable diseases, he said adding that the previous report of the WHO in 2004 revealed that around 57,000 people die every year in the country due to the diseases related to tobacco.

However, the government is thinking of making it mandatory to print pictorial health warnings on the packets of bidi like cigarettes, he added.

The government recently includes the messages of harmful effects of tobacco in the school textbook curriculum to create awareness in the society, the government authorities said.

Among others, Prime Minister's Adviser Syed Modasser Ali, Health Secretary Sheikh Altaf Ali, Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) Prof Shah Monir Hossain, Additional Secretary of the ministry of Education Rajia Begum, WHO Country representative to Bangladesh Duangvadee Sungkhobol, Associate Director of CDC Atlanta Samira Asma were also present.

Imposing additional taxes on tobacco production, amendment to the Tobacco Control Act and its implementation, anti smoking media messages and pictorial health warnings on all tobacco products were recommended following the study.

No bail

FROM PAGE 1
ministries concerned to take legal actions against people responsible regardless of their political affiliations and identities.

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad also reaffirmed The Daily Star that the prime minister has given the directives.

A group of influential and powerful people chopped down about 20,000 trees in Pirganj upazila of Rangpur on Saturday and Sunday nights.

Last month, a group of influential people including a son of a ruling-party lawmaker had as many as 15,000 trees cut down in Sitakunda of Chittagong. They also felled some 5,000 more trees across a half-a-kilometre stretch of the forest belt at Sonachhari coast under Sitakunda upazila.

In September, at least 30,000 Jhau (tamarisk) trees were chopped down by a section of local influential people in Teknaf beach of Cox's Bazar and the forest department remained a silent spectator.

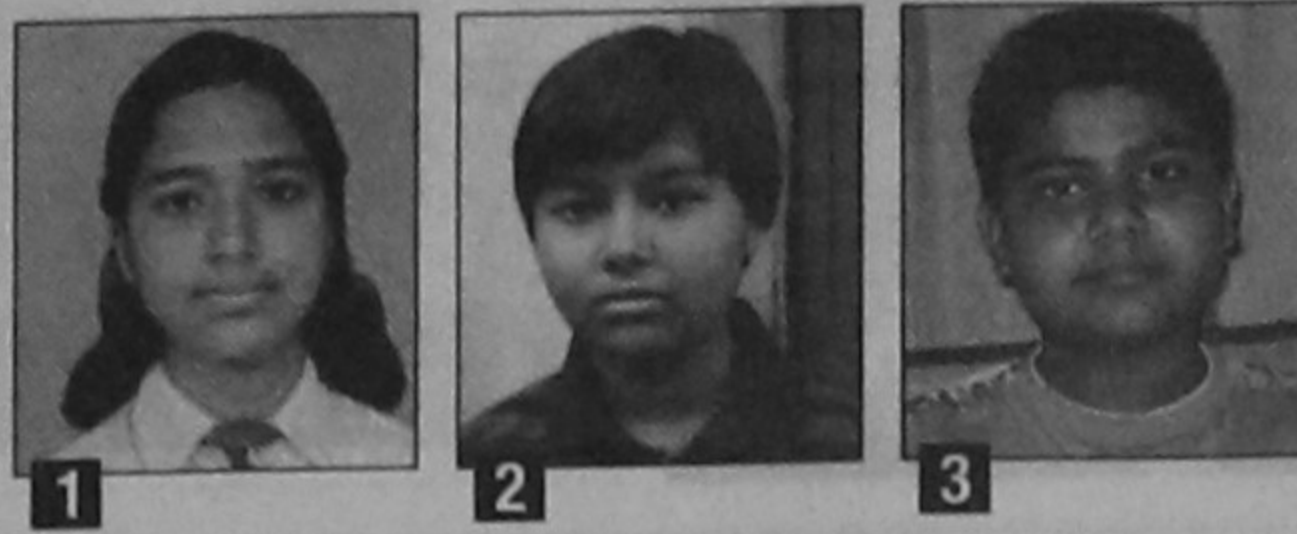
Azad said the prime minister sincerely wants to preserve and develop Bangladesh's forests and green places understanding the consequences of climate change.

Talking to The Daily Star, State Minister for Forest and Environment Hasan Mahmud said the government is determined to take tough actions against those who are felling trees and even if ruling-party men were involved, they would not be spared.

Chief of the all-party parliamentary group on climate change and environment Saber Hossain Chowdhury said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's commitment to protect Bangladesh's environment would be made clear through the new law.

He, however, said there must be full implementation of the law and strict vigilance to protect the country's forests and green places.

Saber, also a member of the parliamentary standing committee on forest and environment ministry, said there is lack of forest policing and manpower. Satellites could be utilised for forest vigilance, which has been introduced in different countries.



Sadia Shikder of Monohardi Model Govt Primary School secured first place among the students of six divisions while Dipannita Tithi of Arpara Shibnagar Model Primary School and Hasin Tanveer of RK Govt Primary School of Tangail secured second and third positions respectively in the primary education terminal examination.

New primary exam

FROM PAGE 1
girls—showed up.

The government, however, granted six percent grace to increase the percentage of passed students saying it was done since the examination was held for the first time in the country.

Sadia Shikder, a student of Monohardi Model Government Primary School in Monohardi upazila of Narsingdi, secured the first spot in the country obtaining 593 (98.83 percent).

Dipannita Tithi of Arpara Shibnagar Model Primary School in Kaliganj of Jhenidah and Hasin Tanveer of RK Government Primary School of Tangail secured second and third positions scoring 592 and 589 respectively.

Other top 10 students are: Silvia Mahmud Brishiti of Bindubashini Govt Girls High School in Tangail, fourth place, Fahim Tajwar of Govt Laboratory High School in Rajshahi, fifth place, Sheikh Fazle Rabbi of Chhabisha Govt Primary School in Narsingdi, sixth place, Moon Islam of Monohardi Model Government Primary School, seventh place, Mufiq Bhuiyan of Shamsul Haq Khan School and College in Dhaka, eighth place, Sadia Afrin Shamba of Victoria High School in Moulvibazar, ninth place, and Nurun Tansuna Hridy of Bindubashini Govt Girls High School, 10th.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Amin briefed newsmen around 3:00pm about the results at his secretariat office. He said they have tried to make the quality of primary education better with these exams.

He also said they are planning to increase the number of primary scholarship holders. Currently, 50,000 scholarships—20,000 talent-pool and 30,000 general—are being provided to primary school students.

Viqarunnisa Noon School and College came out on top in terms of cent percent passed and high first division achievers while Monipur High School and Ideal School and College secured second and third positions.

Students of Barisal Division did the best with 92.94 percent passed while in Sylhet division it was the lowest—78.25 percent passed.

Dhaka Division secured fifth place among the six divisions with 88.98 percent passed even though schools of Dhaka city dominated the list of top 10 schools.

In upazila level, Uzirpur upazila of Barisal, had 99.94 percent of students passed while Sharail upazila of Brahmanbaria, had the lowest success rate with 60.97 percent passed.

Around noon yesterday, the results were formally handed over to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Many parents alleged that they could not get results from the Primary Education Department website.

The Awami League government introduced this new public exam in place of primary scholarship exams to provide equal education to all.

Rural kids

FROM PAGE 1
Primary School of Kaliganj upazila under Jhenidah, stood second obtaining 592 marks in the national level and first in Khulna division.

Daughter of Bijoy Kumar Biswas and Archana Rani of Madhuganj Bazar under Kaliganj, she told The Daily Star, "My teachers did much for me."

"I want to be a doctor in future," Tithi said adding she studied for seven to eight hours daily.

Hasin Tanveer of R K (Ruxini Kanta) Govt Primary School in Tangail Sadar stood third.

He told The Daily Star he studied around five to six hours a day. A house tutor, his schoolteachers along with his mother helped him a lot in achieving the result. He obtained 589 marks.

Son of Nurul Islam Khan, a private employee in Dhaka, and Nazmush Sheehar, an assistant education officer of Tangail Sadar upazila, Tanveer dreams of being a computer engineer.

Viqarunnisa

FROM PAGE 16
Of the top ten institutions, five are in Dhaka city while four in Chittagong and one in Khulna division.

National Ideal School at Motijheel in Dhaka secured fourth position while Bangladesh Navy School and College in Chittagong fifth, Mohammadpur Preparatory High School in Dhaka sixth, Comilla Modern School under Adarsha Sadar in Comilla seventh, Bangladesh Mahila Samity Girls High School in Chittagong eighth, Dr Khastagir Govt Girls High School in Chittagong ninth and Khulna Zilla School tenth position.

A total of 1,516 students achieved first division from Viqarunnisa Noon School and College while 1,126 from Monipur High School and 962 from Ideal School and College.

A total of 498 students achieved first division from National Ideal School while 425 from Bangladesh Navy School and College, 416 from Mohammadpur Preparatory High School, 393 from Comilla Modern School, 330 from Bangladesh Mahila Samity Girls High School, 325 from Dr Khastagir Govt Girls High School and 311 from Khulna Zilla School.

Afsarul Amin during his press conference said they would hold a better exam next year learning from the mistakes made this year.

Asked about zero success in some government schools, he said this exam made the level of performance in those schools clear and they will take steps accordingly.

"We will try to find out the reasons behind the zero success in the government schools as these schools have infrastructure and other facilities," he said.

Asked about failed students, Amin said on an average 37 students failed in each centre and these students will be allowed to sit for next year's exam.

He said students would be provided mark sheets and testimonials by December 30 and they would need those to get admitted to class-VI in their desired schools.

State Minister Motihar Hossain said the government would award the best 10 schools and students for their outstanding results.

Asked about the grace, he said, "Some 82 percent students passed without the grace and they increased the number of passed with the six percent grace."

6,000 workers

FROM PAGE 1
During the meeting with Mauritius Minister for Labour Jean Francois, Dipu Moni raised problems and prospects of Bangladesh workers in Mauritius.

Francois expressed his satisfaction over contribution of Bangladeshi workers, saying they are generally sincere, modest, and hard working.

Dipu Moni underscored the need for signing a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of manpower, which has been forwarded to the Mauritius authorities for their consideration, to facilitate the transparent movement of workers.

Mauritius government showed their keen interest to recruit skilled doctors, engineers and architects from Bangladesh in response to Bangladesh's offer.

Praising ban on polythene bags in Bangladesh, Mauritius Minister for Industry, Science and Research Dharmbeer Gokhool said they want to take similar steps. He then proposed of importing eco-friendly poly bags manufactured in Bangladesh.

As he sought cooperation from Bangladesh on garment fashion designing and proposed for a visit of Mauritius team to a Bangladesh fashion designing institute soon, Dipu Moni happily agreed to provide them an effective visit at the BGMEA Fashion Designing Institute in Bangladesh.

During his meeting with Mauritius Foreign Minister Arvin Boollell, Dipu Moni stressed on exporting pharmaceuticals, knit-wear, ceramics, leather goods, melamine, jute goods from Bangladesh.

Dipu Moni held a bilateral meeting with Vice-Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Economic Empowerment Ramakrishna Sithanen and signed a bilateral Convention on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion.

They decided that Joint Working Groups on various aspiring sectors of cooperation would soon be formed between the two countries to implement the agreements reached.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni visited a garment factory employing a large number of Bangladeshi female workers and spent some time with them and visited their dormitory.

A birthday party

FROM PAGE 16
And it is unbearable for Lovely to live apart in the most momentous moments of life of her kids who would have died within months if the long separation process had not been undertaken.

"I appeal to the authorities of the Children First Foundation and to the government and non-government organisation or any benevolent person of the country to arrange our visit to Krishna and Trishna," Lovely made the plea yesterday.

Born joined at the head, the girls were released from hospital on Monday after marathon surgery to separate their fused brains five weeks ago.

The AFP reported that birthday cakes were also dropped off to doctors at Melbourne's Royal Children's Hospital "just to say Happy Birthday from Trishna and Krishna for them all."

"It's a celebration of life for all these people," AFP quoted Kelly as saying.

Krishna and Trishna have been away in Melbourne from

their mother after they were taken there two years ago by Australian aid workers in a last-ditch effort to save them.

Now the twin sisters are finding their feet, a change from their old habit of crawling around on their backs.

Doctors believe they have come through the operation without serious neurological damage.

And, indeed, it would be the nicest moment to see in life for a mother.

UZ body

FROM PAGE 16
nirbahi officers have already been directed to ensure law-makers presence at Food for Work committee meetings, Akram said.

Committee Chairman Muhammad Sayedul Hoque asked the minister to explain the price rise of coarse rice and steps to tackle it.

Akram quoted the minister as saying that import of rice is being hampered due to poor rice harvest in some major exporting countries.

Gilani, Zardari

FROM PAGE 16
resolved in accordance with the constitution," said the sources.

Briefing the president on his meeting with the Punjab chief minister, the prime minister said there was "unanimity of views on the supremacy of parliament, the rule of law and strengthening of state institutions."

According to the sources, Gilani told Zardari that his meeting with Shahbaz was "fruitful" and it had been agreed that all institutions should work within the role prescribed by the constitution.

A statement by the Prime Minister's House earlier said, "The Punjab chief minister and the prime minister agreed that the current democratic system would be protected and strengthened at all costs to work for the welfare of the people."

The statement quoted the prime minister as saying that the government respected the judgement of the Supreme Court on the NRO. "The PPP has adopted a policy of reconciliation and consensus and has taken country's political leadership on board on all matters of national importance."

Expressing complete solidarity with President Asif Ali Zardari, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Punjab chapter decided to counter the propaganda against the party's co-chairman.

In a meeting held on Monday at the party's provincial secretariat, the PPP Punjab's General Council unanimously passed three resolutions, deciding to hold rallies and press conferences across the province and start a political campaign to counter the propaganda against Zardari.

The members also asked the chief justice of Pakistan to take suo motu action against those who had got their loans written off.

The party directed its district presidents to hoist party flags and put up banners at all PPP offices to show solidarity with the president.

PPP Punjab President Rana Aftab Ahmad Khan presided over the meeting, which was attended by PPP Punjab Secretary Samiullah Khan, Information Secretary Iqbal Sialvi, Lahore President

Chaudhry Asghar Gujjar, provincial ministers Raja Riaz, Ashraf Sohna, Farooq Yousaf Ghurki and Haji Ishaq.

State Minister for Interior Tasneem Qureshi and PPP's central media spokesman Munawar Anjum also attended.

Anjum, PPP's Pakpattan President Rao Jameel Hashim and PPP Lahore Secretary Akbar Khan presented the three resolutions before the General Council.

Resolutions: Anjum presented the first resolution and expressed solidarity with President Asif Ali Zardari, while Akbar Khan presented the other resolution that sought support for the government's Aaghaz Hooqoo Balochistan package.

Rao Jameel Hashim presented the third resolution, which requested the chief justice to expedite the hearing on the pending corruption cases.

The resolution also requested the early disposal of a writ petition by Air Marshal (r) Asghar Khan and the Mehran Bank case.

The PPP council adopted all three resolutions.

Furthermore, the resolutions demanded the chief justice take suo motu action against a political family, whose members had got loans worth Rs3 billion written off.

They said the chief justice should also take notice of those judges and army officers who were responsible for the assassination of PPP founder Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and who imposed martial laws in the country. The resolutions demanded the CJ order the registration of cases against all politicians who had subverted the constitution and supported the 17th Amendment.

Southwest

FROM PAGE 16
involving Tk 138 crore, improvement of solid waste management in Dhaka city towards the low carbon society through enhancing waste transport capacity project under the Local Government Division with Tk 102 crore and converting Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University into center of excellence (2nd phase) project under the Health and Family Planning Ministry with Tk 485 crore.

Messi on top

FROM PAGE 16
World Club Cup final, thus succeeds Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo as the world's top player, as voted by national team captains and coaches.

Messi has played a huge role in the recent success of Spanish giants Barcelona, who have won a total of six trophies in the past season including the Champions League title and the World Club Cup trophy last week.

The Argentine forward's talents were given the ultimate thumbs-up earlier this month when he was voted the winner of the Ballon d'Or for the European Footballer of the Year.

On Monday Messi, 22, had been in contention with Barcelona teammates Andres Iniesta and Xavi, both from Spain, Brazilian striker Kaka of Real Madrid, the winner in 2007, and last year's winner Cristiano Ronaldo.

Ronaldo also won both trophies last season. While Ronaldo won the Ferenc Puskas award for goal of the season while playing with former club Manchester United, one of Messi's goals was among the highlights.

Despite his diminutive stature Messi, who stands 1.69 metres or five feet seven inches tall, rose above United's defence in the Champions League final in Rome to head the second of Barcelona's goals in their 2-0 victory.

The Argentine is also known for his superb dribbling and fast, mazy runs that leave opposition defences in tatters, and on Monday he was just as quick to share out the plaudits.

"I want to thank my teammates, notably those who are present here tonight, without whom none of my achievements would have been possible," said Messi.

"2009 has been a wonderful year for Barcelona and also for me."

Messi's goal against United in last season's final was his ninth of the 2009 Champions League campaign and left him as the competition's top scorer.

Last week Messi also proved decisive in the World Club Cup final. He scored Barcelona's second goal in the 2-1 victory over South American champions Estudiantes of Argentina.

In 2009 Barcelona also won the league title, the King's (Spanish) Cup, the Spanish Super Cup and the European Super Cup.