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Bhutanese team visits 2 airports

STAR REPORT

A 14-member Bhutanese delegation led by its Minister for Communications and Information Lyonpo Nandalal Rai visited Saidpur and Lalmonirhat airports yesterday to see the existing facilities there.

Bhutan is keen to use Saidpur Airport as a transit for its international flights as it is the nearest

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## Bigger ADP on cards

*Finance Division proposes 31pc higher allocation; ADP size for next FY may stand at Tk 67,000cr*

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to prepare an ambitious Annual Development Plan (ADP) for the next fiscal year although it fails to achieve the target every year.

The Finance Division has sent a proposal for allocating Tk 46,000 crore, 31 percent more than that of the revised ADP for the current fiscal year, but the planning ministry is moving to make the size even bigger,

2011-12  
**BUDGET**

Tk 67,000 crore, in line with the demands of various ministries.

For the current FY, the size of ADP was increased by about 35 percent to Tk 38,500 crore but later Tk 3,000 crore of the allocation was slashed as only 60 percent of the revised ADP was implemented in the first 10 months.

On Wednesday, a meeting chaired by Planning Minister AK Khandker discussed making the size of next year's ADP bigger. The National Economic Council (NEC) will prepare the proposal by the end of this month.

A planning ministry official said they have been facing a difficult time in balancing the demand with allocation. The ministry has informed the prime minister about this.

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## Halda fishes spawn again

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, back from Hathazari and Raoozan, Ctg

A number of indigenous fish species including ruhi, katol, mrigel and kalbausha released eggs in the Halda river for the second time in a month yesterday.

The Halda, which flows through Hathazari and Raoozan upazilas of Chittagong, is one of the world's major natural sweet water fish breeding spots. It is also the only source of carp fishes like ruhi, katol, mrigel and kalbausha in the country. Mother fishes here

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Spawns collected from the river Halda in Chittagong yesterday. As it began raining early Wednesday, a number of local fish species started releasing eggs at different points of the river.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## BNP plans recast in party lineup

*Focuses on nationwide anti-govt agitation to press for mid-term polls*

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The national executive committee of BNP is being revamped as the country's main opposition party prepares to launch a nationwide campaign to press for "mid-term elections" accusing the government of failure to run the country.

In the process a few "inactive members" might be axed from the committee that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia announced after the party held its national council in December 2009 for the first time in 16 years, said party sources on condition of anonymity.

Khaleda will undertake a countrywide mass contact programme next month after she returns home from the United States, the last leg of her two-nation tour that also took her to the United Kingdom, the sources said.

Khaleda, also the leader of the opposition in parliament, told party workers at a meeting in London on Sunday she will tour through Bangladesh to forge a tough

### US to provide \$51m food assistance

UNB, Dhaka

The US government through the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be providing more than \$51 million in food assistance to Bangladesh in fiscal year 2011.

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### GD against Fakhrul

*Aug 21 victim complains he threatened IO*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A general diary was lodged with the capital's Palitan Police Station yesterday against BNP's acting Secretary General Mirza Fakrul Islam

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Do you agree with just-retired chief justice ABM Khairel Haque that the verdict on the caretaker government is not contradictory?  
Yes (28.4%)  
No (68.9%)  
No Comments (2.7%)  
TOTAL VOTES: 405

**TODAY'S POLL**  
Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that BNP did not give anything positive to the nation during its tenure?  
Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)



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