

NEWS IN *brief*

Inu blasts for share market scam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday sharply criticised the government for not taking actions so far against the persons responsible for the share market scam.

Chief of JSD, a component of Awami League-led grand alliance government, also raised questions why the government was kindness to give punishment to the persons involved in the recent disaster in the country's capital market.

"Why you [the finance minister] are talking about stabilizing the share market before sending the perpetrators behind the capital market's scam to jail," said lawmaker Inu while taking part in the discussion on the proposed budget for 2011-12.

Inu blasted the main opposition BNP and its Chairperson Khaleda Zia for waging anti-government movement on the issue of caretaker government.

BGMEA to build dorm for workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association will build a dormitory for women workers in the port city of Chittagong.

BGMEA will construct the six-storey dormitory in association with Chittagong Development Authority at a cost of about Tk 35 crore.

The construction of the 16,888-square-foot building, which will accommodate 3,000 garment workers, will be complete in two years, said a BGMEA official.

BGMEA and CDA yesterday signed a deal on the plan at the Chittagong Club.

Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, BGMEA first vice president, chaired the programme where Abdul Mannan Khan, state minister for the housing and public works, was also present as the chief guest.

Robbery : Seven on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed seven persons on a three-day remand in connection with the looting of 1166 tolas of gold from New Heera Jewellers at the city's Banani area.

Earlier, Police showed arrest four employees of the shop and three security guards of the market and produced them before the court with 10-day remand prayer.

Hanging body recovered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the hanging body of a youth from inside of a computer accessories shop at Mukto Bangla Shopping Complex at Section No-1 of Mirpur in the city yesterday.

The deceased is Saiful Islam, 27, son of Abdul Kader, of Baoishor under Sirajdikhan in Munshiganj.

Police said the body was hanging from a ceiling fan with rope on the fourth floor of the market.

Owner of the shop first found the body in the closed shop when he was looking for Saiful who had been missing since morning, said police.

Police suspected that Saiful committed suicide but they couldn't ascertain the cause immediately.



PHOTO: STAR

(From left) Prof Dr Abul Barakat, Prof Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Carel de Rooy, Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud and Jewel Aich at a seminar titled "Child Friendly Budget" organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue at a city hotel yesterday.

Budgetary fund for children only 4.1pc: CPD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday ruled out the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) report, which said that allocation for children in the national budget now stands at 4.1 percent (FY2010-11).

The CPD report presented at a city's hotel yesterday says, "as a percentage of total national budget, child related allocations have gone from 4.6 percent in 2005-2006 down to 4.1 percent of the national budget in 2010-2011." "Child budget as a percentage of GDP has remained stagnant at 0.7 percent," it adds.

"I don't agree with the report findings. The government allocated money in nutrition, education, health and social welfare [sectors]. A big chunk from the money allocated in these sectors is spent for children," said the minister.

Speaking at the launching function of the report, Muhith said if the allocation in these sectors is

accrued it will surpass the present findings [4.1 percent].

The minister, however, felt that there is a need for children friendly budget.

Muhith admitted that children living in the urban and rural slum areas are not taken into account in the budget. "We'll take it into consideration," he added.

The report on "National Budget: Are the Commitments to the Children of Bangladesh Being Kept?," prepared by CPD and Unicef Bangladesh, analysed the data from FY2005-2011.

The report says most child-related programmes fall under four sectors- 1) education and religion, 2) health, population and family welfare, 3) social welfare, women and youth development and 4) labour and employment. The government has allocated Tk 9,607 crore for the sectors in the fiscal year 2010-2011.

The report highlights that share

of allocations for child-focused programmes has not been changed significantly since FY 2005-06. Though number of social safety net programmes and amount of money allocated in the budgets has been increased, the amount and proportion of these resources are meager compared to the number of poor and most

researchers to disclose a more methodologically sound survey.

The economists albeit supports the report like developing a pro-child budget framework, increasing investment for children to reduce socioeconomic inequalities, using deprivation poverty data set/map and ensuring

CPD's Head of Research Fahmida Khatun screened the report in brief. State Minister for Woman and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury and former adviser to the caretaker government Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, among others, addressed the event while CPD Executive Director Prof Mustafizur Rahman was in the chair.

Mustafizur Rahman admitted that there were methodological shortcomings in the research. "We'll try to sharpen it in future," he added.

Wahiduddin Mahmud said that the allocation pattern for children has been changed over time.

Stressing the need for standard education for poor children, he said that if the standard education is not given to poor children they will not turn into manpower.

"There is adverse political influence found in the secondary level education," said Wahiduddin Mahmud.

Muhith rules out CPD findings

vulnerable children.

Echoing the claim of the finance minister, President of Bangladesh Economic Association Prof Dr Abul Barakat said that allocation for child related issues in the national budget will not be 4.1 percent.

"According to my estimation this will be more than 4.1 percent. Programmes like social protection programme are not counted in the report [of CPD]," he said urging the

improved sanitation and safe drinking water for all including urban and slum dwellers.

Representative of Unicef Bangladesh Caryl de Rooy believed that since 45 percent of the total population in Bangladesh is children (under the age of 18) direct annual development plan (ADP) and social safety net budget for children should be doubled over the time.



PHOTO: STAR

Department of Narcotics Control forms a human chain from Jatiya Press Club to High Court in the city yesterday marking International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trading.

INDIAN MINISTER KRISHNA'S UPCOMING VISIT

Issues with India reviewed

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna's two-day visit to Dhaka from July 6, an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday reviewed the latest situation and progress of various issues in the areas of water sharing, power, security and land boundary demarcation.

Representatives from 19 ministries, including home, water resources, commerce, finance, power ministries, attended the meeting and reviewed entire range of bilateral issues, specially progress of implementation of the commitments stated in the joint communiqué issued during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in January last year.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni presided over the meeting, which also identified problems, which are causing delay in implementation of the projects.

It reviewed the latest situation and progress in water sharing agreement on the Teesta river and land boundary issues, which includes demarcation of 6.5 km boundary, transfer of enclaves and adversely possessed territories, trade imbalance, security concerns, cooperation in counter-terrorism, progress of various development projects to be implemented by \$1

billion line of credit, construction of power grid line between India and Bangladesh etc.

Meeting sources said a number of issues, those will be taken up during Krishna's visit were discussed and reviewed.

The meeting also discussed various problems, which are hindering implementation of various projects. Decision has been taken to place the problems identified yesterday's meeting before the Indian side at meetings with Indian external affairs minister.

Meeting sources said that the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's upcoming visit also came up for discussion.

Sources said Krishna's visit is likely to be followed by those of Indian Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram, Water Resources Minister Salman Khurshid and Indian Congress Party Chief Sonia Gandhi in the next two months.

The inter-ministerial meeting over, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni held an exclusive discussion with some important officials about the protests taking place in Tamabil areas in Sylhet over land boundary survey.

She inquired about the latest situation in the locality, reasons for protest, whether Bangladesh needs to handover its lands to India, situation of adversely possessed lands and enclaves and other aspects of survey.

FM starts 3-nation tour

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday started a three-nation - Kazakhstan, Lithuania and the UK -- tour to attend various international events, including OIC meeting.

She left Dhaka for the eight-day visit last night.

Foreign ministry sources said she will first attend the 38th Session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Foreign Ministers scheduled for June 28-30 in Astana, the capital city of Kazakhstan.

She will then proceed for two-day (June 30-July 1) visit to Vilnius, Lithuania to hold official meeting with her counterpart Andronius Azubalis and attend the 6th ministerial meeting of the community of democracies on July 1.

She will also attend the inaugural session of Pubali Exchange Company (UK) Limited in London on July 3 and return home early July 5.

Officials said at the OIC meeting, Bangladesh will ratify the rules of origin agreement that would effectively lay the legal foundation of a preferential trade deal among OIC members.

The preferential trade system envisages a transition to a three-step tax reduction system among Muslim countries and needs the approval of at least 10 member states to be launched. Nine OIC countries have already ratified the agreement and it would be effective with the ratification by Bangladesh.

In Astana, she will attend a meeting of the ministers of the Central Asian countries and representatives of the OIC Institutions on the OIC Action Plan for Cooperation with Central Asia.

Foreign ministers from different countries, including US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and high profile UN and EU leaders will address the conference.

UPDF opposes constitution amendment bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) rejected the bill of fifteenth amendment to the constitution yesterday.

They criticised the government move to keep Bismillah and Islam as state religion in the constitution.

Termining the bill controversial, the president of UPDF Prosit Khisha in a written statement said ethnic communities in the country will not accept the Bangalee nationality.

They said activities of Awami League are as same as BNP and Jamaat.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Shankha Hari Pal, former general manager of A Q Chowdhury & Company,

passed away on June 22 due to old age complications, says a press release.

The company members condoled his death.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 19th death anniversary of Prof Kazi A b u l Hossain, an educationist and social worker, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at his residence in the city after Asr prayers.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Protest march
National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports will organise a protest march. Venue: Mohammadpur Town Hall, Time: 4:30pm.

Roundtable
PSTC and Water Aid will jointly hold a roundtable. Venue: Engineers Institution Bangladesh, Time: 9:30am.

Workshop
Practical Action Bangladesh and CUTS

India will jointly arrange a regional workshop. Venue: Brac Centre Inn, 75, Mohakhali, Time: 9:30am.

Meeting
Bangladesh Freight Forwards Association will hold an annual executive council meeting. Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, Time: 9:00am.

Discussion
Kapaeng Foundation and Oxfam GB will jointly organise a discussion. Venue: National Planning Academy auditorium, Nilkhet, Time: 10:00am.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely
UNB, Dhaka
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rangpur, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions in 12 hours till 6:00pm today.
Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said.
Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.
The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:14am tomorrow.
Country's highest temperature 33.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.5 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.7	27.0	83	83
Chittagong	27.0	25.2	96	93
Rajshahi	30.6	26.5	95	93
Rangpur	31.4	25.7	97	75
Khulna	28.2	25.5	99	95
Barisal	29.0	25.5	97	83
Sylhet	33.3	26.0	83	79
Cox's Bazar	27.5	25.0	96	96