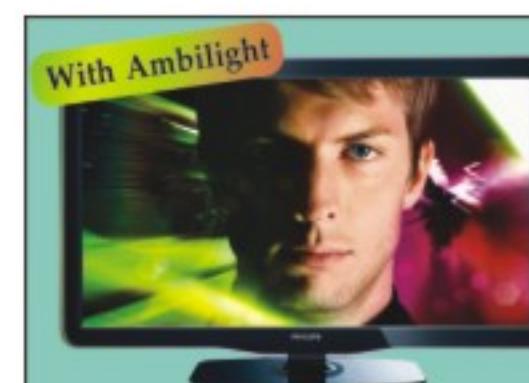




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Economy not in grim state

PM refutes Khaleda's version

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday refuted the claim of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia that the country's economy is in a grim situation.

"She has become crazy to make illegal money using the state power. As she cannot do that, she started saying bad words about the country's economy," said Hasina, also the president of ruling Awami League.

Speaking at the party's central working committee meeting at Gono Bhaban in the capital, she said the BNP chief had spoken about her political condition in the name of country's condition.

Khaleda at a press conference on December 1 blamed inefficiency, corruption and mismanagement of the government for the bleak economic situation. She said the economy is in a deep crisis. Anarchy has been created in the macro-economic management but there is no visible initiative to overcome this situation.

Hasina said the opposition leader now sees problems around her as she is not in power and cannot make black money.

Regarding the recent report of Transparency International, she said the organisation is always reluctant in presenting good sides of the AL, "when we are in power".

Corruption has been decreased a lot. If they look properly, they will find the reality in a better shape, she claimed.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



An exhausted fire fighter takes a breather as his teammates continue their effort to douse the flames in the warehouse of a Bata outlet on Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka. The warehouse caught fire in the wee hours of yesterday. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Two Qabee staff drown in Sylhet quicksand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Bodies of two employees of Qabee, an internet service provider company, were recovered yesterday, a day after they went missing into a quicksand of a river in Jaintapur, Sylhet while on a tour.

Deceased Abdullah Al Kaiser, 25, and Taharat Kabir, 27, and four other

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Clarification

The Bangladesh chapter of Transparency International in a clarification said that its Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman was partially misquoted in a news report headlined "TI's Graft Index: Bangladesh betters a bit" carried in this paper's Friday issue.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Regulator should not be too rough

Telecoms secretary tells eAsia seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Telecom Secretary Sunil Kanti Bose yesterday urged the industry regulator not to be 'heavy-handed' in dealing with stakeholders so that they do not face any problems.

"Rather, the regulator should be very liberal. BTRC should resolve its disputes," he said. "If any issue goes to court, it will take longer to get results."

The secretary was speaking at a seminar styled "Appropriate Telecommunications Regulatory Regime" at the just concluded three-day ICT event, eAsia 2011, at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka.

Policy-makers, regulators and local and foreign telecom analysts participated in the seminar chaired by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Chairman Zia Ahmed.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

SUBSIDY BURDEN

ADP faces 12pc cut

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government may reduce the fund for annual development programmes by 12 percent or Tk 5,400 crore due to pressure of subsidy on the budget and its failure to implement projects under ADP.

The ADP allocation may be cut down to Tk 41,600 crore, as per the primary estimate of the finance ministry.

A revised policy has already been issued by the planning ministry on how to cut the ADP size.

The revised ADP will be finalised next month and at that time, according to a finance ministry official, the ADP cut may be more than the primary estimate due to increasing expenditure on subsidy.

The current fiscal year's ADP size was highly ambitious in the context of the government's capacity for expenditure

and mobilising resources.

As per the planning ministry statistics, in the first four months of the current fiscal year only 15 percent of the total ADP allocation-- 21 percent of the local component and 7 percent of the foreign funding-- has been spent.

Though the implementation of ADP projects is low, the government's bank borrowing has been increasing day by day. The government in about five months until November 29 borrowed Tk 19,866 crore from banks, which is around Tk 1,000 crore more than the target set for the whole year.

And about 60 percent of the total borrowing was from the central bank, which caused an increase in inflation in recent times.

A high-level meeting with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair last

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

UN slams Syria rights violations

Clashes continue to rage, 23 killed

AFP, Nicosia

Eleven civilians were among 23 people killed in Syria yesterday, a day after the UN Human Rights Council urged tougher action against Damascus and condemned its "gross violations" of human rights.

The fresh bloodletting came despite the UN resolution which the Syrian foreign ministry dismissed as "unjust" and "politically motivated" by enemies of the embattled regime of President Bashar al-Assad.

For Damascus, the council's "decisions aim to prolong the crisis and convey a message of support" to the regime's armed opponents.

On Friday, an emergency meeting of the Human Rights Council passed a resolution "strongly condemning the continued widespread, systematic and gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Syrian authorities."

Rights council members also agreed in a vote to

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited
ONLINE POLL
Do you think BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's remark that the government is maintaining a 'scorched-earth' policy regarding the economy to make its foreign masters happy is justified?



TODAY'S POLL
Do you think it was justified for Santa Larma to term the ruling Awami League an extremely communal political party?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net
YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING December 4

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-05	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-21	5-24
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

SMILE, SWEET SMILE: The battle might have been lost already but Nasir Hossain's maiden hundred against in the second ODI against Pakistan at Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium was something to behold for otherwise disappointed home fans. Here he salutes the home crowd upon reaching the magical three-figure mark. (Story Sports page)

Bangladesh pushes for green fund

INAM AHMED, from Durban

Bangladesh has demanded that the proposed Green Climate Fund, the formation of which is still uncertain, should have half of its amount for adaptation. In a statement made at the informal consultation

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Protesters denied entry to talks

AFP, Durban

Riot police yesterday blocked hundreds of protesters, mostly women farmers, from entering the UN climate talks in Durban, according to a photographer on the scene. The demonstrators tried to break through barriers surrounding the conference centre where about 15,000 diplomats, experts and NGOs are trying to breathe life into international negotiations tasked with fighting the threat of climate change.

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MORE ON PAGE 7

Hit by train, woman dies in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was hit and killed by a train as she was crossing the railway track in the capital's Mohakhali yesterday.

Zarina Begum, 22, worked at a restaurant named Al-Ismail near the level crossing.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over National Export Trophy for the year of 2009-2010 to Haji Abdul Majid Mondol, Chairman of Mondol Trims Ltd. (Mondol Group).

We convey our Heartiest Congratulations to the Chairman of Mondol Group for such National recognition for the last 4 (four) consecutive years.

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