

Quality Guaranteed from the Farm


The Daily Star

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXIII No. 164 | ASHAR 16, 1420 BS | SABAN 20, 1434 HJRI

20 PAGES PRICE : Tk 10.00

SECOND EDITION



GSP SUSPENSION

Ceramic wares and tobacco exporters fear they will lose edge

PAGE 81

MONROE PHOTOGRAPHER DIES

Bert Stern, who photographed the actress's famous "The Last Sitting", died at 83

PAGE 9

SHUTTLECOCK KERRY

Israel-Palestine diplomacy talks seem to be heading nowhere

PAGE 8

Money whitening CG must; CG never

Investments in productive sectors allowed, land purchase excluded; 10pc import duty for newsprint

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has provided scope for legalisation of undisclosed money through investment in productive sectors, but withdrawn its proposal for allowing money whitening through purchase of land.

Besides, it has revised its proposal for hiking import duty on newsprint from 3 percent to 25 percent, apart from 5 percent supplementary duty. Now, it will impose 10 percent import duty on newsprint.

Shifting from its proposal for raising import duty on printing plates used in the newspaper industry to 5 percent, it has lowered the duty to 2 percent from the existing 3 percent.

The government has brought down supplementary duty on bidi and package VAT (Value Added Tax) for small traders.

In the proposed budget for fiscal 2013-14, it was suggested that a person would be allowed to whiten money by purchasing a flat or a plot of land provided he paid a certain amount of tax.

The government has now decided to give the facility only in case of purchase of flats, because if the scope is given in buying land it will push up land prices and encourage expenditure in unproductive sectors, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said in parliament which yesterday passed the finance

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

PROPOSALS	CHANGES
 Provision for black money whitening through land purchase paying 10% tax	WITHDRAWN
 Increasing import duty hike on newsprint, more than 8 times, from 3% to 25%	10%
 Import duty on zinc plates for newspapers from 3% to 5%	2%
 Supplementary duty on bidi by 5% (20 pieces) and 10% (25 pieces)	WITHDRAWN
 Package VAT on small retail traders in Dhaka and Chittagong from Tk 9,000 to Tk 12,000 a year	TK 11,000
 Package VAT on small retail traders outside Dhaka and Chittagong from Tk 7,200 to Tk 9,000	TK 8,000

Khaleda tells JS govt has to swallow caretaker system; Hasina brushes off demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has urged the government to resolve the impasse over the holding of the next general election and ensure a smooth transition of power through "peaceful dialogue."

"We do not want any conflict, as we think it is possible to find solutions [on how to hold the next general election] through an understanding," Khaleda, also the leader of the opposition, said in her nearly two-hour-long speech in parliament yesterday.

Sounding a note of caution, she said the government had to pave the way for holding the next general election under a non-party and neutral government.

"I am sincerely urging the government to take initiatives for constituting a non-party and neutral polls-time

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has once again rejected the opposition demand for holding the next general election under a neutral, non-partisan government. She called upon the opposition to keep faith in people.

"We have to keep faith in people. If they wish, the opposition will come to power. But we will have to continue the democratic process," the PM said in parliament yesterday.

Participating in the budget discussion, she also said, "The next election will be held the way it is held in other parliamentary democracies where the voting rights of the people are safe."

Before Hasina, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in her budget discussion demanded the government take

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



It's not my article

Khaleda disowns write-up in US daily

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five months into the publication of her article in The Washington Times, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has denied sending the US newspaper any write-up seeking a withdrawal of trade benefits for

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Blame game on GSP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday witnessed yet another blame game between top leaders of the opposition and treasury benches over the US' revoking of Bangladesh's generalised system of preferences facilities.

Taking part in the budget discussion in parliament, Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia shrugged off their own responsibilities in retaining the facility and put the onus on each other.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, speaking in the House, appealed to the US to refrain from withdrawing the GSP facilities for Bangladesh. He said the negative impact of the withdrawal might spread to other sectors and "there lie our apprehensions and fears".

Showing a copy of an article written earlier in the year by Khaleda Zia in a US daily, Hasina said it was the BNP chairperson who had appealed to the US administration through the write-up to cancel GSP facilities for Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

GSP SUSPENSION

US terms it an opportunity to up labour standards

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US said it would continue to work with Bangladesh to restore its trade privileges, while insisting that the suspension of GSP was an opportunity for the South Asian country for improving labour and safety standards.

"The United States believes this moment represents an opportunity for Bangladesh to take action to improve labour and safety standards," said

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Youths should take leadership

Says Nobel hero Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Young people should come forward to bring about a change in the country's political leadership and politics as a whole, Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus said yesterday.

He said this while talking to journalists after a youth conference on social business at Daffodil International University in the capital's Sobhanbagh.

When asked whether he would take responsibility in leading any change, Yunus avoided giving a direct answer.

"I belong to the aged group," was what he said in reply.

At yesterday's conference, Yunus, a pioneer of social business, called on the younger generation to become "agents of change" through their creativity.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Unscrupulous people are constructing buildings around Kaptai Lake in Kaptai upazila of Rangamati district. All wastes from these structures go out to the lake, polluting the waterbody, a tourist attraction in the area. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



Dutch-Bangla Bank's Rating Affirmed

AA1

Dutch-Bangla Bank has been affirmed '**AA1**' (pronounced 'Double A One') rating in the long term and retained 'ST-1' rating in the short term by Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh Limited (CRAB), Bank analysis and rating firm. The rating was based on consolidated audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2012 and other relevant qualitative and quantitative information.

A comparative position of the credit ratings (surveillance rating) of DBBL for the years 2012 and 2011 is furnished below:

Surveillance rating 2012	Surveillance rating 2011	Remarks/definition
Long Term : AA1	Long Term : AA1	Commercial Banks rated ' AA1 ' in the long term belong to " Very strong capacity and very high quality " cohort. Banks rated ' AA1 ' have very strong capacity to meet their financial commitments. ' AA1 ' rated banks are judged to be of very high quality and are subject to very low credit risk.
Short Term : ST - 1	Short Term : ST - 1	Commercial Banks rated in the short term ' ST-1 ' category are considered to have the highest capacity for timely repayment of obligations. Commercial Banks rated in this category are characterized with excellent position in terms of liquidity, internal fund generation, and access to alternative source of funds.

CRAB highlighted some of the positive factors that constitute the foundation of the Bank's success, namely-strength in revenue generation, liquidity position, credit quality and low cost of deposit.

A stable outlook has, therefore, been assigned to the Bank.



Dutch-Bangla Bank
YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER



Prof. Abu Ahmed Chowdhury

Famous Surgeon & Teacher Prof. Dr. Abu Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of Samorita Hospital Ltd expired on Friday the 28th June, 2013 (Inna lillahe wa inna ilaihe rajeun) at the age of 85.

The Board of Directors and all employees of Samorita Hospital Ltd. have been deeply shocked at his death and pray to the Almighty for the salvation of the departed soul and convey deepest sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.



SAMORITA HOSPITAL LTD.
HOSPITAL SERVING FOR 30 YEARS

ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear readers,

It has been many years that we are serving our young readers with two specialised publications- "Rising Stars" and the "Campus". Time has come to give more challenging reading materials to our young readers as they are better informed, more aware, more self-confident about their abilities and more committed to building a new and prosperous Bangladesh.

To cater to these young and aspirant readers and in our well known spirit of innovation we plan to launch a new publication called "Shout" from the middle of July. "Shout" will be a 12-page, twice-a-week publication to give our young a bigger say in shaping our future.

We shall therefore discontinue publication of Rising Stars and Campus from this week. We are confident that "Shout" will create new enthusiasm among our school, college and university students for reading and learning more about their beloved Bangladesh and the world at large and participating in the nation building process.

- Editor