MEETING WITH CHINESE DPM

PM seeks easy market access

UNB, Kunming

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought China's co-operation in getting easy access for Bangladeshi products to its market with the aim to reduce huge trade gap between the two countries.

Terming China a time-tested friend of Bangladesh, she lauded the progress China has made in recent years, and said the neighbouring countries needed the share of the benefit of development.

Shahidul Haque briefed reporters after the meeting.

Hasina made the remarks during a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister of China Wang Yang at the Kunming International Conference Centre in the afternoon. Foreign Secretary

Stressing the importance of regional connectivity among the countries in South Asia and China, she underscored the need for the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Economic Corridor (BCIM-EC) to boost economic cooperation in the region.

During the meeting, the Chinese vice premier mentioned that the existing trade gap between the two countries could be reduced through bilateral discussions.

Wang Yang highly appreciated Bangladesh's support to One China Policy, saying his country was very pleased over Dhaka's approach in this regard as well as on its stance towards regional connectivity.

He lauded the progress which Bangladesh has achieved over the last

couple of years, and said China wanted to be a partner in the effort. Yang also told Hasina that China wanted to relocate its industries in

Bangladesh if proper sites were available for such an initiative.

In reply, Hasina said a special economic and industrial zone would be

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Despite low production of mangoes and jackfruits this season due to poor rainfall in Rangamati, producers of the district sell their fruits at the floating market in Banarupa Samataghat at low prices. The yield of other fruits, including pineapples and bananas, have been rather good. The photo was taken on Thursday.

Sumitra new Speaker of Lok Sabha OUR CORRESPONDENT,

New Delhi

Sumitra Mahajan, veteran leader of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, was elected yesterday unanimously as the Speaker of the 16th Lok Sabha, the lower House of the Indian parliament. She is the second

woman to hold the position after Meira Kumar of SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Challenges aplenty

Chambers, business associations stress good governance, political stability, smooth energy supply to achieve budget goals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The size of the proposed budget is not unrealistic, but it has several challenges to tackle, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and : try's investment climate. Industry (FBCCI) said yesterday.

Ensuring good governance, maintaining political stability, providing · Commerce and Industry (MCCI) in its necessary power and gas are the key challenges for the government in : budget reaction lauded the allocation of implementing the budget, the country's apex trade body said in a statement. Tk 8,100 crore made for the Padma Bridge

FBCCI urged the government to speed up the private sector's investment. project. It also commended the alloca-"It is an urgent need to increase investment and production to achieve the · tions made for metro rail, transport and revenue target," it said.

The FBCCI welcomed the proposal to widen the tax net and provide: incentives to protect the local industries. "We believe it is a positive step for : increased investment in physical and the overall economy," it mentioned.

the government has set the borrowing target at Tk 31,221 crore.

impact on the likelihood of private companies to getting loans from banks.

It demanded that the government set the turnover tax at 0.3 percent for all: The chamber also said the widening export oriented companies.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

: Infrastructure Projects

MCCI praises big allocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

 A leading chamber yesterday praised the government's big allocation for infrastructure saying the implementation of some mega projects would improve the coun-

The Metropolitan Chamber of · human resources development.

"The MCCI strongly feels that the · social infrastructure will help improve the Banks will be a major source of funds to finance the budget deficit, and : quality of investment climate, people's lives, develop human resources and create The chamber said high dependence on bank borrowing may have a negative · better employment opportunities," the · chamber said in a statement.

and deepening of social safety net

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

KILLING IN FAKE ENCOUNTER

18 Indian cops convicted

IANS, New Delhi

An Indian court yesterday convicted 18 Uttarakhand policemen in the 2009 killing of a 22-year-old student in Dehradun in a fake gunbattle.

Central Bureau of Investigation Special Judge J P S Malik convicted 18 policemen, who were involved in the Ranbir Singh "encounter" case that rocked the hill state in 2009.

Seven accused, including then inspector Santosh Jaiswal sub-inspectors Gopal Dutt Bhatt, Rajesh Bisht, Neeraj Kumar, Nitin Chauhan and Chandra Mohan, were convicted on charges of murder.

Ten policemen were convicted for conspiring to murder while one policeman was convicted for framing incorrect record.

The 18 policemen were chargesheeted by the CBI in connection with the case.

Other policemen charge sheeted in the case are constables Ajeet Singh, Satbir Singh, Sunil Saini, Chander Pal, Saurabh Nautiyal, Nagendra Nath, Vikas Chandra Baluni, Sanjay Rawat, Mohan Singh Rana, Inder Bhan Singh, Manoj SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

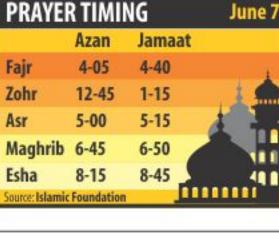
Indian FM may visit this month

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj is expected to visit Banglades

h at the end of this month, diplomatic source told The Daily Star yesterday.

She would carry a letter from Prime Minister

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1





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Nur Hossain's aide held

STAR REPORT

Another associate of Nur Hossain, prime suspect of the septuple murder in Narayanganj, was arrested yesterday.

Mortuza Zaman Churchill, who used to work as a bodyguard of the absconding Nur Hossain, was held by the Detective Branch (DB) of police from the residence of his in-laws in Salam Khar Dangi village of Faridpur around 3:00am.

Sunil Kumar, officer-incharge of Faridpur DB, told our correspondent that Churchill was on the run and was caught based on a tip off.

With Churchill, total 30 people have been detained in this connection.

Talking to our Faridpur correspondent, Churchill SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



TODAY'S POLL

justified for the government to impose VAT on mobile phones to 15 percent from 10 percent in the budget for the next fiscal?

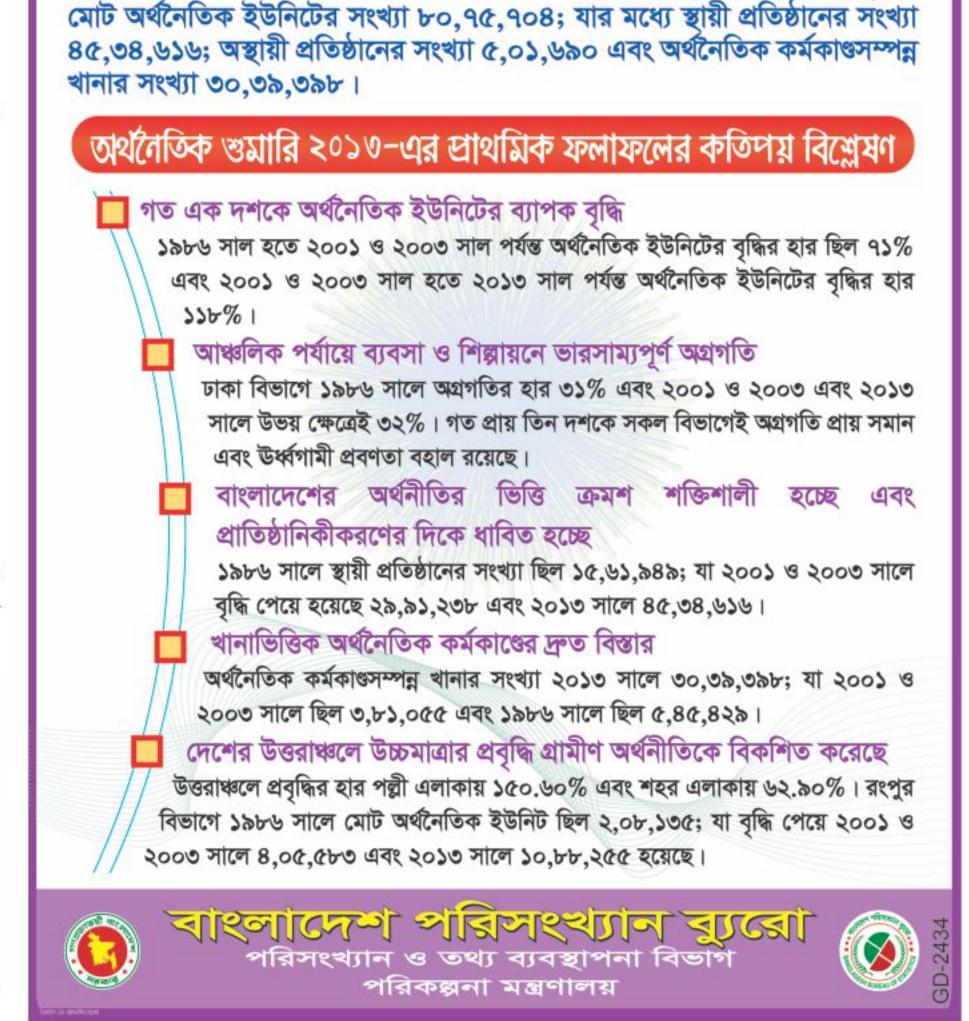
ONLINE POLL

Do you think it would be

TOTAL VOTES: 224

Integral Energy Limited

Do you think the government would be able to reach the growth target of gross domestic product (GDP) at 7.3 percent for the upcoming fiscal year? PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net



অর্থনৈতিক শুমারি অগ্রগতির দিশারি

দশ বছরের ধারাবাহিকতায় পরিসংখ্যান ও তথ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা বিভাগের আওতাধীন

বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো বিগত ৩১ মার্চ হতে ৩১ মে ২০১৩ পর্যন্ত অর্থনৈতিক

শুমারি ২০১৩-এর মাঠ পর্যায়ে মূল গণনার কাজ সম্পন্ন করে এবং জনগণের

সহায়তায় এটি সুষ্ঠভাবে সম্পাদন করে। গত ১৭ নভেম্বর ২০১৩ তারিখে অর্থনৈতিক

শুমারি ২০১৩-এর প্রাথমিক ফলাফল প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে। প্রাথমিক ফলাফল অনুযায়ী