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Tk 97,000cr ADP okayed

Next fiscal year's development budget 29pc bigger than this year's revised one

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has increased the size of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the next fiscal year by more than 29 percent although that of the current fiscal remains largely unused.

The National Economic Council (NEC) yesterday approved Tk 97,000 crore ADP for FY 2015-16, with an additional Tk 3,997 crore allocation for the autonomous state-owned enterprises, which will implement the projects through their own financing.

This means, the overall development expenditure in the next fiscal year would stand at Tk 1,00,997 crore, said Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal after the NEC meeting at his ministry yesterday.

The initial size of the ADP in the current fiscal was Tk 80,315 crore but it was later slashed to Tk 75,000 crore. However, only 56 percent of the revised ADP has been spent in the first 10 months of the current FY.

For the next fiscal, the planning ministry initially proposed Tk 92,500 crore ADP but considering the demand of other ministries, Prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who

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Above, cormorants perching on branches in water; bottom left, a black-headed gull having a hard time through rough waves; right, a flight of two ferruginous pochards.

PHOTO COURTESY: DR REZA KHAN



The vibrant Tanguar Haor

DR REZA KHAN

A chill in the third week of April is unusual in the Tanguar Haor under Taherpur Upazila in Sunamganj. But because of El Niño and many other erratic weather patterns caused by global warming, greenhouse gas emission and sea level rise have made the world climate rather unstable.

So I did not expect a stormy weather on the morn

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Cheated in Brunei

22 Bangladeshi jobseekers return home penniless, accuse recruiting agencies of fraud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-two Bangladeshi workers, who were lured allegedly by two manpower recruiting agencies into going Brunei for lucrative jobs, yesterday returned home empty-handed.

"The two agencies took Tk 4.5 lakh to Tk 5 lakh from each of us, promising to provide gardening jobs in Brunei with a monthly salary of Tk 30,540. But, we got the jobs of labourers there and earned only the half every month," Jewel Rana, one of the returnees, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The 22 Bangladeshis arrived in Dhaka on a Malaysia Airlines flight around 12:30am. Later in the morning, they went straight to the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry and registered their

complaints against the agencies there.

They blamed the agencies for cheating them with false promises of lucrative salaries and demanded compensation.

According to them, a total of 34 Bangladeshis went to Brunei through the two agencies in February. Of them, only four are still in that country.

"There was no scope for working overtime in the company in Brunei. The agencies had promised us that we would be able to work for at least extra two hours. There was no weekly day offs either," said Jewel, who hailed from Faridpur.

He said they approached their Brunei employer repeatedly for getting the facilities "mentioned" in their work contracts but

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BHASHANI UNIVERSITY 9 students suspended over clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University in Tangail yesterday suspended nine of its students for their alleged involvement in Wednesday's clash on the campus that left a student dead.

The decision was taken in an urgent meeting of the university's regent board held at the Dhanmondi liaison office in Dhaka last evening, said Proctor Khademul Islam.

The suspended students are SM Rabiul Hasan Saju of Chemistry department,

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DR SHAMARUKH MURDER Ex-AL lawmaker, wife cleared

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday cleared former Awami League lawmaker Khan Tipu Sultan, his wife Jesmine Ara Begum and son Humayun Sultan Shahdat of Dr Shamarukh Mahjabin's murder.

Wife of Shahdat, Shamarukh was found hanging from her apartment window in the capital's Dhanmondi on November 13 last year. She was sent to a hospital where physicians declared her dead.

Metropolitan Magistrate Ashoke Kumar Dutt passed the order after scrutinising two autopsy reports and other relevant documents in the murder case. He accepted the final report in the case and cleared the three accused of the murder charge.

However, Shamarukh's family rejected the CID's probe report and said they will file an appeal with the higher court seeking cancellation of the lower court's order.

Earlier in the day, the court dismissed a no-confidence petition filed by

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BSF again kills Bangladeshi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader and injured another on Burimari border in Patgram

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PRAYER TIMING

MAY 15

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-10 12-30 5-00 6-36 8-00

JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 6-40 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

The town that runs on Twitter

THE INDEPENDENT

A portrait of the King of Spain once hung in the office of José Antonio Rodríguez Salas, mayor of the small town of Jun in Granada, Spain. Now, the blue bird of the Twitter logo sits in its place.

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