



B1 Net FDI to Bangladesh soars 37pc



P3 Hospitals struggle as dengue cases keep rising



P7 China, US must find ways to get along: Xi



P10 Ashes foes face off in must-win clash

No money being stolen from forex reserves: PM



BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said money from the country's forex reserves was being used for development activities, imports, and the people's welfare.

"Many people are questioning where the money from the forex reserves is going. I am telling them that the money goes to Payra Port. The money is being used to

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People of Jelepara in Chattogram city's South Halishahar are living in shacks after Cyclone Sitrang destroyed their homes on Monday night. The affected people allege that the local administration was yet to come forward to help them. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

STRIKES BEFORE BNP RALLIES

AL leaders pulling the strings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is the local Awami League leaders and their allies who are actually enforcing the transport strikes in divisional cities right before the BNP rallies, while ministers keep insisting that transport associations are independent.

Almost all top leaders of local transport associations that have called the strikes are either affiliated with the ruling party or are loyal to local AL leaders.

Moreover, central bodies of the transport owners and workers are led by ruling party leaders or their loyalists.

Just like in Khulna, Mymensingh, and Barishal, transport owners in Rangpur yesterday called a 36-hour strike from today, a day before the BNP rally.

Rangpur Motor Malik Samity called the strike from 6:00am today to 6:00pm tomorrow "demanding three-wheelers be removed from highways".

Mozammel Haq, president of the samity, is an adviser of AL's Rangpur City unit while Mashur Rahman Ranga, general secretary of the body, is a Jatiya Party lawmaker from Rangpur.

Asked why they called the strike just ahead of the BNP rally, Mozammel did not respond.

Ranga, a former state minister of the previous AL-led grand alliance government, is also the president of Bangladesh Road Transport Owners' Association, the umbrella body of transport owners' associations.

Khondaker Enayet Ullah, secretary general of the umbrella body, is a vice president of Dhaka South City Awami League.

Yesterday, there were fewer buses heading towards Rangpur. By afternoon, the number shrank to half the usual.

AL, ALLIANCE CONNECTIONS

On October 18, two transport owners and workers platforms – Khulna District Bus, Minibus, Coach and Microbus Owners' Association and Khulna Motor Sramik Union – jointly called a strike from October 20 "demanding three-wheelers be taken off the roads".

The BNP rally there was held on October 22.

Mizanur Rahman, president of the association, is a former AL lawmaker from Khulna-2 and is currently a member of AL Khulna city unit's executive committee.

Its general secretary, Anisur Rahman Paplu, is a former convener of Khulna City Jubo League.

The president and secretary of the Motor Sramik Union are involved with Sramik League.

On Wednesday, Barishal District Bus Malik Group called a strike on all routes to Barishal for November 4 and 5. A BNP rally is supposed to be held there on November 5.

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US companies ready to invest in energy sector

Says senior US trade official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US investors are keen to invest in energy, particularly Liquefied Natural Gas, Arun Venkataraman, senior US trade official, said yesterday in Dhaka.

Venkataraman, assistant secretary of Commerce for Global Markets and director general of the US and Foreign Commercial Service, was speaking at a press conference after the inauguration of the 28th US Trade Show and new office of the US Commercial Services at Sonargaon Hotel.

In his speech at the show, he said US companies stand ready to help in infrastructure, dredging project, information and communication technologies, franchise in healthcare,

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Carry out reforms in banking sector

IMF asks Dhaka over request for \$4.5b loan

REJAU KARIM BYRON

The International Monetary Fund asked Dhaka to withdraw the interest rate cap on lending, report net foreign currency reserves and introduce market-based exchange rate to secure a \$4.5 billion loan from it as budget support.

The issues were discussed at a day-long meeting between a visiting IMF team and Bangladesh Bank officials in the capital's Motijheel yesterday.

"We had a fruitful meeting and are hopeful of getting a decision on the \$4.5 billion loan in the next two weeks," BB spokesperson Abul Kalam Azad told 'The Daily Star'.

Seeking anonymity, another high official of the central bank said the team members explained why the reforms recommended by the IMF were important for the country's banking and financial sectors.

The team also said the removal of the

interest cap would help contain non-food inflation and curb imports.

The BB officials, however, did not agree on the removal of the interest cap, saying it could be removed for some sectors in the future only if the government wished to do so.

The IMF officials then said the BB should calculate and regularly publish the net foreign currency reserves, which is the global practice.

The BB currently shows gross foreign currency reserves which include the export development fund, green transformation fund, and a loan given to Biman by Sonali Bank, said the BB official, adding that the IMF asked the BB not to count these as reserve assets.

As of October 19, the reserves stood at \$35.98 billion. If the IMF instructions are followed, the net reserve would be \$27.98 billion.

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50 BNP activists hurt as AL men 'swoop on' them

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

At least 50 BNP and Jubo Dal leaders and activists were injured after ruling Awami League men allegedly attacked a Jubo Dal programme in Bhola yesterday.

At least four motorbikes were also torched during the attack, alleged leaders of Jubo Dal, the youth wing of BNP.

Charfesson upazila Jubo Dal organised the event to mark its 44th founding anniversary at the residence of former lawmaker Nazimuddin Alam, also a BNP leader, in the upazila town.

A group of AL, Jubo League and Chhatra League men suddenly launched the attack around 11:00am, injuring at least 50 BNP and Jubo Dal men, said Ashrafur Islam Dipu, president of Charfesson Jubo Dal.

Of the injured, 15-20 are in critical condition, he claimed.

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South Africa's Rilee Rossouw roars in jubilation as he became the first centurion of this edition of the T20 World Cup in Sydney on Thursday. The left-hander's 56-ball 109, his successive T20I ton, helped the Proteas register a thumping 104-run victory over Bangladesh in their Super 12 fixture.

PHOTO: AFP



Tigers seek quick turnaround


STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The T20 World Cup match against South Africa was a big opportunity for Bangladesh to dismantle the status quo in a group containing India, Pakistan and South Africa, and despite showing promise with both bat and ball at start of each innings, the Tigers slumped to a heavy 104-run defeat yesterday.

Rilee Rossouw struck a blinding 56-ball 109 – the first ton in this marquee event – showcasing his ability to take on both pacers and spinners at will. The Tigers' start with the ball was good when Taskin Ahmed got skipper Temba Bavuma out in the first over after the Proteas elected to bat. T20 games tend to change quickly and Rossouw and Quinton de Kock produced 63 runs in the Powerplay, seizing the momentum sharply.

Only Mustafizur Rahman and Hasan Mahmud were able to complete their full quota of overs as a 168-run stand for the second-wicket saw South Africa amass 205 for five. Only some

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বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অবৈধ মানি এক্সচেঞ্জ সম্পর্কে জনসাধারণকে সতর্কীকরণ

সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে বিভিন্ন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান অবৈধ মানি চেঞ্জার ব্যবসার সাথে জড়িত মর্মে বিভিন্ন সংবাদ গণমাধ্যমে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক বৈধ মানি এক্সচেঞ্জের অনুমতি প্রদান করে। উল্লেখ্য, সকলের সচেতনতার লক্ষ্যে অনুমোদিত মানি চেঞ্জার প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ তালিকা বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের ওয়েবসাইট Link (<https://www.bb.org.bd/en/index.php/links/index> এর Money Changers tab) এ প্রদর্শিত হচ্ছে। এমতাবস্থায়, সম্ভাব্য আর্থিক ও আইনগত ঝুঁকি এড়ানোর লক্ষ্যে অবৈধ মানি চেঞ্জারের সাথে যে কোনো প্রকার লেনদেন, দোকান ভাড়া চুক্তি সম্পাদন ইত্যাদি হতে বিরত থাকার জন্য সর্বসাধারণকে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

জনস্বার্থে এ সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারী করা হলো।

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।