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Investors not confident

Says Debapriya, expresses doubts about economic reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investors do not feel confident because they are not sure if the policies taken by the interim government will be in place for long, said Debapriya Bhattacharya, head of the white paper panel on economy, yesterday.

Speaking at an event at Dhaka University, he said he wondered whether enough has been done on economic reforms in the last six months.

The interim government suspended the implementation of the 8th Five-Year Plan prepared by the Awami League government.

But the authorities have not taken any medium-term plan even though the white paper panel on the state of the economy recommended making plans for at least two years.

"We have said that private investment does not take place without a medium-



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The great egret is a majestic wading bird recognised for its striking white plumage and graceful movements. Belonging to the heron family, this elegant bird is found across Asia, Africa, the Americas, and southern Europe, inhabiting wetlands, marshes, ponds, and tidal mudflats. Its long, S-curved neck and sharp bill make it a formidable hunter, primarily preying on fish, crustaceans, amphibians, and small mammals. Historically, great egrets have faced severe threats due to extensive poaching. The photo was taken yesterday in Alupotti area along the Padma banks in Rajshahi city.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

ON THE HUNT

US pledges support for govt's reform agenda

Visiting delegation meets Yunus, foreign adviser

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A visiting US delegation called on Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday and expressed support for the reform agenda of the interim government.

According to a statement of the Chief Adviser's Press Wing, the delegation, comprised of Deputy Assistant Secretaries of State Nicole A. Chulick and Andrew Herrup, also discussed regional issues of peace, security, and development.

Bangladesh's National Security Adviser Dr Khalilur Rahman, the head of the US mission in Dhaka, Tracey Ann Jacobson, were present at the meeting held at the

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40 Palestinians killed in wave of Israeli strikes

Say Gaza rescuers; Qatar claims Israel 'did not abide' by truce deal

AFP, Gaza City

Gaza's civil defence agency said yesterday that a series of Israeli air strikes killed at least 40 people, most of them in encampments for displaced civilians, as Israel pressed its unrelenting military offensive in the Palestinian territory.

The Israeli military did not immediately comment, but said it was looking into reports of the strikes, which came as Hamas officials said internal deliberations on the latest Israeli truce offer were nearly complete.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said two Israeli missiles hit several tents in the Al-Mawasi area of the southern city of Khan Yunis, resulting in at least 16 deaths, "most of them women and children, and 23 others were wounded".

» Israel using 'starvation as weapon': Hamas

» 5 lakh Palestinians displaced since end of truce: UN

Survivors described a large explosion at the densely packed encampment that set multiple tents ablaze.

"We were sitting peacefully in the tent, under God's protection, when we suddenly saw something red glowing -- and then the tent exploded, and the surrounding tents caught fire," Israa Abu al-Rus told AFP.

An estimated 500,000 Palestinians have been displaced since the end of the Gaza ceasefire, when Israel resumed military operations in the narrow coastal territory, the United Nations said Wednesday.

"Our humanitarian partners estimate that since March 18, about half a million people have been newly displaced or uprooted once more," said Stephanie Tremblay, spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Qatari emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani said yesterday that Israel had failed to respect January's ceasefire agreement in Gaza, as he met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

Meanwhile, Hamas yesterday accused Israel of attempting to starve the

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GRAMEEN BANK

Govt stake to fall to 10% from 25%

Advisory council approves proposed ordinance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Advisory Council of the interim government has given the go-ahead in principle to the amendment proposal of the Grameen Bank Ordinance that seeks to reduce the government's stake in the Nobel-winning microcredit institution to 10 percent from the present 25 percent.

Drafted by the Financial Institutions Division, the new ordinance also seeks to enhance the control of Grameen Bank shareholders by increasing their stakes to 90 percent from the present 75 percent, according to the proposal placed at a meeting of the Advisory Council yesterday.

As per the amendments, nine board members will be elected from the beneficiaries. Of them, three directors will be nominated, and a chairman will be selected from the three. This removes the government's role in appointing the bank's chairman.

Briefing the media, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, environment adviser, said Grameen Bank was run based on a philosophy that its shareholders would have a voice in its operation.

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Strongest evidence yet of life found on alien planet

REUTERS, Washington



In a potential landmark discovery, scientists using the James Webb Space Telescope have obtained what they call the strongest signs yet of possible life beyond our solar system, detecting in an alien planet's atmosphere the chemical fingerprints of gases that on Earth are produced only by biological processes.

The two gases - dimethyl sulfide, or DMS, and dimethyl disulfide, or DMDS - involved in Webb's observations of the planet named K2-18 b are generated on Earth by living organisms, primarily microbial life such as marine phytoplankton - algae.

This suggests the planet may be teeming with microbial life, the researchers said. They stressed,

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An illegal three-wheeler, locally known as nasimons or karimons, is operating in Dhaka's Shyampur area, transporting people and iron rods. These vehicles not only put their passengers in danger, but also other vehicles on the road.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Govt decides to amend civil procedure code

It'll allow summons be made via phone, text

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government yesterday in principle decided to amend the Civil Procedure Code (CPC) including the introduction of provisions for issuing summons through telephone, text messages and other modern methods.

The move to change CPC, formulated during British rule, was part of implementing recommendations from the Judicial Reform Commission, said,

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Man beaten to death for protesting daughter's harassment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A 45-year-old man was beaten to death allegedly by a group of local youths for protesting the harassment of his daughter in the Talaimari area of Rajshahi city on Wednesday night.

The deceased, Akram Hossain, 45, was a bus driver and a member of the Rajshahi District Motor Workers' Union, said Boalia Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mostak Hasan.

Family members yesterday formed a human chain with his body near the Shaheed Minar area, demanding the arrest of the killers within 24 hours and their punishment.

The victim's son Imam Hasan Ononto filed a case against seven people, including Nantu, Bishal, and Roton, and several unnamed individuals with Boalia Model Police Station, the OC said.

Quoting the case statement, the OC said the victim's daughter

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