



Cattle prices stay high despite surplus
P3



US weighs drone threat from Cuba: report
P5



Fitch's negative outlook and how we can navigate the storm ahead
P6



Dhaka should confront Arakan Army's abduction of fishermen
P7

5-year plan eyes trillion-dollar economy

Govt wants to create 1 crore jobs by 2030

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has created a five-year plan that aims to turn Bangladesh into a trillion-dollar economy by 2034 and create 1 crore jobs by 2030, driven by an upsurge in investment.

The blueprint, which was prepared by the General Economic Division and will succeed the 8th five-year plan, aimed to accommodate the new government's election manifesto and establish a realistic strategy to manage internal and global economic shocks, including the banking sector crisis.

It was approved at yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Council chaired by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

"As a government elected by the people, we have incorporated those commitments into the proposed plan -- we are moving forward with strategies focused on recovery, transition, and reconstruction,"

Finance Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury told reporters after the meeting.

The plan rests on seven pillars: economic decentralisation, deregulation and improving business climate, investment-led growth, balanced regional development, universal social protection, job creation and skills development, and good governance and institutional reforms.

In the first 12 months, the government will focus on stabilising the fragile economy.

This involves implementing a strict monetary policy to control inflation and employing prudent exchange rate management to rebuild the delicate foreign exchange reserves.

In this phase, the government would also be reducing unnecessary government expenditure while simultaneously

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

THE 5 PILLARS OF STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

1. STATE REFORM

- Restoration of democracy
- Good governance



2. EQUITABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Poverty alleviation
- Universal social protection
- Nationwide job creation

3. RECONSTRUCTION OF FRAGILE ECONOMY

- Trillion-dollar economy
- Foreign direct investment
- Blue economy
- Creative economy



4. BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

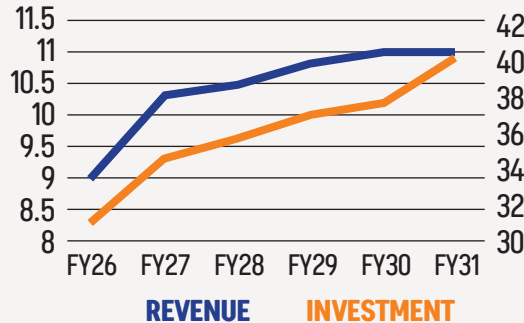
- Chattogram as commercial capital
- Development of northern region and haor area
- Safe and sustainable Dhaka

5. RELIGION, CULTURE AND SOLIDARITY

- Religious harmony
- Arts, sports and culture



REVENUE, INVESTMENT PROJECTION AS % OF GDP



Govt moves to draft law for Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken an initiative to formulate a new law for Rapid Action Battalion, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said yesterday.

Speaking at a programme marking Rab's 22nd founding anniversary at the force's headquarters in

"The US sanctions are still in place. However, if Rab is renamed or a new elite force is raised, they might reconsider the sanctions."

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed



Dhaka, the minister said the proposed law would clearly define the force's powers, duties, and accountability mechanisms to ensure transparency and the protection of human rights.

Asked if Rab would continue to exist in its current form, the minister avoided giving a clear answer and said the government was in the process of forming "a new elite force" under a new legal framework.

He added that no final decision had yet been made on

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Higher power prices may hit Palli Bidyut Samitys

Govt mulls hiking bulk rates for 21 profitable ones; experts, officials warn it may destabilise system that keeps rural lights on

ASIFUR RAHMAN

The government is planning to charge 21 profitable Palli Bidyut Samitys (PBSs) higher bulk electricity purchase rates.

Officials and energy experts warn that, if followed through, it could destabilise the decades-old cross subsidy system that keeps rural power distribution running across the country.

In the cross subsidy system, surplus revenues from industrial-heavy PBSs are distributed to loss-making residential-focused rural PBSs.

As part of the ongoing electricity tariff review, the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) in a proposal submitted to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) identified the profit-making PBSs and proposed treating them in the same way as urban power distribution companies.

Under the existing system, industrial-heavy PBSs generate surplus revenues that are redistributed among weaker PBSs, helping all 80 PBSs under REB maintain operations despite mounting losses in rural electricity supply.

Officials at the Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (REB) said the proposal could disrupt the internal financial balancing mechanism as the PBSs that generate surplus revenues support weaker PBSs, allowing all 80 PBSs under REB to run despite mounting losses in rural electricity supply.

"In reality, the profitable PBSs are sustaining the entire rural distribution structure," an REB official told The Daily Star, requesting anonymity as the matter remains under regulatory review.

According to documents submitted to the BERC, 13 PBSs transferred a combined Tk 3,515 crore to 65 other PBSs in the 2024-25 fiscal year to offset operational losses, stemming largely from lower residential tariffs and a large number of subsidised consumers.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Pakistan sends new Iranian proposal to US

Deploys jet squadron, thousands of troops to Saudi Arabia

AGENCIES

Peace mediator Pakistan has shared with the United States a revised proposal from Iran to end the war in the Middle East, a Pakistani source told Reuters yesterday, warning that the sides "don't have much time" to narrow their differences.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei later confirmed that Tehran's views had been "conveyed to the American side through Pakistan" but gave no details.

A fragile ceasefire is in place after six weeks of war that followed US-Israeli airstrikes on Iran, but talks mediated by Pakistan have stalled and US President Donald Trump has said the ceasefire is "on life support".

The Pakistani source gave no details of the revised proposal. Asked if it would take time to close gaps, the source said the sides "keep changing their goalposts" and added: "We don't have much time."

Washington has urged Tehran to dismantle its nuclear program and lift an effective blockade on the Strait of Hormuz, which normally carries one-fifth of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas supply.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

- Iran Guards strike groups linked to US, Israel in Kurdistan province
- Iran announces new body to manage Strait of Hormuz
- Hearing in Netanyahu's corruption trial cancelled again

Mushfiq's record ton puts Tigers in command

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh tightened their grip on the second Test against Pakistan after building a massive 436-run lead by the close of the third day at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Veteran Mushfiqur Rahim once again stood at the centre of Bangladesh's dominance, striking his 14th Test century to become the country's leading centurion in the format, surpassing Mominul Haque.

The 39-year-old was once again symbolic in his drive and hunger for Test cricket achievements. Despite a Test career spanning over 20 years, Mushfiqur's disappointment at missing out on scoring 150 was visible as Bangladesh innings closed out with his dismissal on 137. Before that, he showed all the features that earned

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7



Bangladesh batter Mushfiqur Rahim celebrates his century against Pakistan on the third day of the second Test at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium yesterday. Mushfiqur, who now holds most number of Test centuries for Bangladesh with 14, went on to score 137 as the hosts set the visitors a target of 437 runs for victory with two days remaining.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Arakan Army's actions amount to war crimes

Says HRW report on massacre of Rohingyas in Rakhine

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Arakan Army, an ethnic armed group in Myanmar's Rakhine State, committed grave violations of the laws of war amounting to war crimes when it killed and wounded hundreds of Rohingya Muslims and torched their village in 2024, according to a Human Rights Watch report published yesterday.

"First, my son was hit by a bullet. Then my wife and baby daughter were shot, followed by my other daughter."

Rohingya man recounts the 2024 massacre at Hoyyar Siri in Buthidaung Township

The 56-page report on the May 2, 2024 massacre at Hoyyar Siri in Buthidaung Township notes that details only began to surface more than a year later, after some survivors fled to Bangladesh and Malaysia.

HRW interviewed several dozen witnesses and survivors, corroborated their accounts by satellite imagery, and analysed and verified photographs and videos.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1