Novel way to press home demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The diploma engineers across the country yesterday decided to work an extra hour after the scheduled office time on September 14, in a rare example of placing demands through peaceful means.

The diploma engineers announced the decision at a press conference arranged by the Coordinating Council of the Bangladesh Diploma Engineering Students, Teachers and Professionals at Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) at Kakrail.

The diploma engineers have been staging demonstrations demanding the government to eschew retrenchment of as many as 750 engineers from different state-SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

7 injured in Shibir-JCD fights in Ctg

UNB, Chittagong

At least seven activists of the Islami Chhatra Shibir and the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were yesterday wounded in separate incidents in connection with Friday's clash at the Chittagong Polytechnic Institute that was closed indefinitely

Police said a group of JCD activists on Tuesday night picked up Shibir leader Ahmed Hossain from his house, took him to the nearby Nasirabad hills and stabbed him repeatedly. Ahmed was later rescued SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets	
Sept 04		6-14 pm	
Sept 05	5-41 am		
Prayer Timings			

		U	
Sep	ous Akb		
	Azan	Jamaat	from
Fajr	4-45	5-10	pres
Zohr	12-45	1-15	unic A
Asr	4-35	5-00	said
Maghrib	6-20	6-24	polic
Esha	8-00	8-30	N
Source: Islamic Foundation			

JCD leader dies in factional fight in Barisal **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader of Barisal city unit died from bullet injuries and four Jubo Dal (JD) leaders were injured when two rival factions clashed near Barisal Government Girls' School yesterday

Arefur Rahman Arif, assistant social welfare secretary of the JCD. sustained bullet injuries and later died Rabiul Awal Shahin, Shuvo Nunna and Masud of the JD were injured in a clash that ensued over control of locality at around noon Police arrested Shuhad, a notori

criminal, from the spot but par, a JCD leader, snatched him m police custody, alleged vicesident of BM College students on. Sentu. Akbar denied the allegation and d Sentu snatched Suhad from

Masum was admitted to Barisal SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Police arrest women at hotels and massage parlours at Paltan in Dhaka yesterday in a raid that rounded up about 200 people, 120 of them alleged sex workers.

HPSP project JS body for action for embezzlement of Tk 162cr funds

implementing the project. STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The committee, at the meeting The parliamentary standing comdiscussed eight audit objections mittee on public accounts at its under the project. The amount, meeting yesterday recommended embezzled and misused, was in punitive actions against those customs and VAT related. involved in corruption and embez-The past Awami League governzlement of over Tk 162 crore of the ment took up the Tk 15,000 crore Health and Population Sector foreign-aided HPSP project.

Programme(HPSP) under the The committee also discussed health ministry. several audit objections under Roads and Highways Department The committee asked the ministry to form a quasi-judicial inquiry of the communication ministry.

Committee chairman Advocate committee in this regard and submit report at its next meeting Haroon Al Rashid presided over the Meeting sources said the commeeting held at the Jativa Sangsad Bhaban. Committee members and

mittee expressed dissatisfaction as it observed huge corruption and mismanagement in the process of

Six rounded up by army at Rangamati OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Six people, reportedly supporters of the 1997 Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace accord, were rounded up during an army raid at the Naniarchar upazila headquarters in the early hours of yesterday. Sources said the army picked up

Papul Khisha, 34, Robin Ćhakma, 35, Kousol Chakma, 18, Anil Chandra Dewan, 40, Profulla Chakma, 45, and Binimoy Chakma, 20, from the house of a local headman at around 1:00am yesterday and recovered a locallymade handoun and two bullets from their possession

Confirming the incident, intelligence sources at the district headquarters said the six men had gathered at the house "for a meeting"

All of them are members of the Shontrash Domon Committee, a propeace accord organisation, added he sources.

"They are yet to be handed over to police. We haven't received any clear message from the Naniarchar police," sources in the district intelli gence of police said.

Imam murder Mourning rally in Khulna today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A mourning rally to commemorate the slain City Awami League (AL) president Alhaj advocate Monzurul Islam will be held at noon today at the Khulna Bar auditorium.

Vice-president of Bangladesh Bar Council Barrister M Aminul Islam, President of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association Rokonuddin Mahmud and Gono Forum Chief Dr Kamal Hossain are expected to attend the rally, among others.

The rally is part of a 20-day programme organised by city and district units of AL following the murder of advocate Monzurul SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Rejoinder and our reply

Poland takes control of huge swath of Iraq

AFP, Baghdad

Poland took command of a large chunk of Iraq yesterday, officially becoming the third country after the United States and Britain to accept responsibility as an occupying force. As head of a 21-nation multinational division, Poland assumed control from the US Marine Corps amid pomp and ceremony in the amphitheater of Babylon, built by Saddam Hussein on the ruins of the original theatre erected by Alexander the Great in 330 BC

The ceremony was attended by

Polish Defense Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski and his Ukrainian counterpart, Evhen Marchuk, along with Spanish officials, whose nations will take charge of the provinces from the exiting marines.

folder, symbolising the change in "The multinational division has control, from the commander for the become a first, it was founded with US marines in the south, Lieutenant the help of our American friends and General James Conway. Conway told his successors the thanks to the brave decision by 21 countries," said Poland's Major greatest challenge in the south was General Andrzej Tyszkiewicz near

peaceful existence."

the site of Iraq's ancient glory outside Hilla, 100 kilometres south of Baghdad. "Our common focus is to help Iraqi

to restore electricity, end fuel shortages and get factories up and running. The multinational division was SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Giant asteroid

to safely

AFP, Paris

pass us by

people, and to wipe out the traces of

Saddam Hussein's monstrous

dictatorship and build a new basis of

Tyszkiewicz was handed a red

Tax evasion charge against ticket reservation firm

M SHAMSUR RAHMAN and NAZMUL AHSAN

Allegations of tax evasion has been levelled against Amadeus, a company offering automated global ticket reservation system.

The Anti-money Laundering Department of the Bangladesh Bank yesterday asked the company to provide information about its businesses, tax and revenue payments.

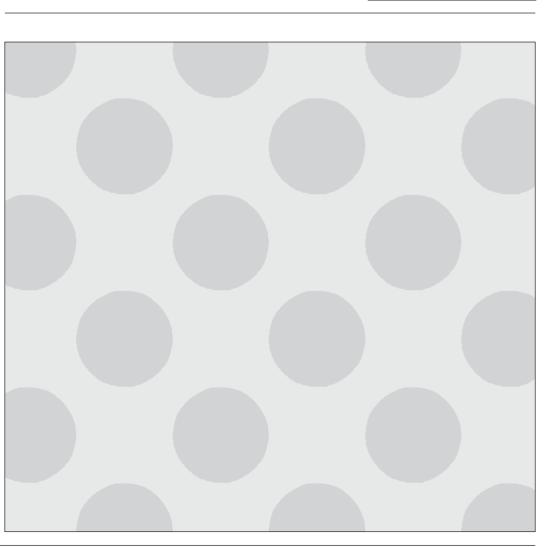
liaison office in Dhaka. But it is allegedly violating the liaison office regulations by marketing its products and doing transactions locally On August 2, the industries minis-

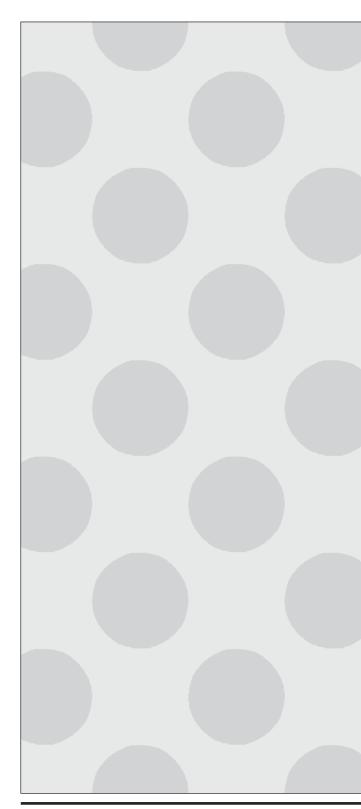
try asked Amadeus to submit its income tax certificate and a statement of the funds it remitted from Banaladesh during the last three vears.

The Earth is not quite so doomed, experts said yesterday Amadeus operates though a Fears that a giant asteroid could wack into the planet on March 21, 2014 and plunge it into a nuclear

winter are misplaced, they said, explaining that fresh calculations showed the monster rock would safely pass us by SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7





Circular river route funds doubled

RAFIO HASAN

Allocation for the first phase of the project to introduce a river route around the capital has been raised to Tk 36 crore from Tk 15.72 crore and it will be implemented by June next year instead of June 2005.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) at a meeting yesterday approved the increased allocation and revised the implementation period of the project.

Sadarghat-Ashulia section of the circular river route will be completed in the first phase of the project. Permanent landing stations and launch terminals on the route will be set up at Swarighat, Katashur, Rayer Bazar, Gabtali, Amin Bazar, Kholamura, Basila, Nawabganj and Ashulia.

The government will acquire around nine acres of land for the landing stations. The ECNEC meeting, chaired by

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, also decided to release funds quickly so that the project could be implemented within the stipulated time.

under its Annual Development Programme (ADP), the project is being implemented by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

Financed by the government

officials concerned were present at

the meeting.

Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain told The Daily Star the river route will help reduce traffic jam in the city and improve transportation of goods, particularly essentials like rice and vegetables.

On completion of the project launched in July 2000, many passenger launches would start from Amin Bazar to ease pressure on Sadarghat launch terminal, he added.

The minister mentioned that dredging of the Buriganga river is already going on and a big portion of the route is now ready for river traffic. He hoped that the project would also help develop tourism facilities along the river.

According to shipping ministry sources, Tk 11.32 crore had been spent on the project by June this year and Tk 7.89 crore was allocated under the ADP for fiscal 2003-2004.

Petrobangla in a rejoinder to The Daily Star news headlined " RPC's new power project to worsen gas situation" published Wednesday said that Petrobangla at a meeting on July 31 decided to construct a 20inch pipeline from Dhanua to Kodda to ensure gas supply to the RPC plant by 2005.

Our reply: The July 31 meeting of Petrobangla discussed how gas supply could be ensured for the 450mw power plant and it identified the need to set up a 20-inch pipeline. The meeting did not approve any plan or project. Till date there has been no official plan, proposal or allocation for this pipeline. Besides, the Petrobangla did not even work out the source of the gas and other technical details associ ated with the 20-inch pipeline.

