

Panasonic
DIGITAL PASK-INTERCOM
COPIER, FAX & C.C. TV

TRICOM ELECTRONICS LTD.
2/C, Paras Pathan, (Shawon Tower) 14th Fl, Dhaka.
Tel: 9558823, 9553836
0171-520776, Website: www.tricomel.com

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION
TODAY'S ISSUE 20 PAGES

PIXEL PLUS TV
More Pixels. More Details

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIII No. 244

DHAKA SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2003

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

ASHWIN 6, 1410 BS

RAJAB 23, 1424 HJRI

20 PAGES PRICE: TK 7.00

Pressure budes AL, govt on CPA joining

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Under pressure from the Commonwealth nations, the government and the main opposition Awami League (AL) are going to budge from their stances on the upcoming Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) conference.

The government has accepted two of the three opposition demands, but not the one that calls for drop of two non-parliamentarians-- Harris Chowdhury and Masaddek Ali-- from the steering committee of the conference.

The AL is also reviewing its earlier position and likely to join the conference on the condition that parliament will be made effective.

The AL will brief Commonwealth high commissioners today on the party's precondition for joining the conference. The party's advisory council will sit also today to review the situation and decide on whether or not to join the conference, sources said.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia however expressed dissatisfaction at the developments over the conference.

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar and Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid

Siddiqui went to her office (PMO) yesterday when she asked them to ensure the opposition's participation in the conference, sources at the PMO said.

Khaleda and senior members of her cabinet were highly annoyed at the likely boycott of the conference by the opposition.

The Commonwealth countries are putting pressure on the government to make sure that the opposition takes part in it.

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina told journalists at her home village Tungipara that her party wanted successful holding of the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

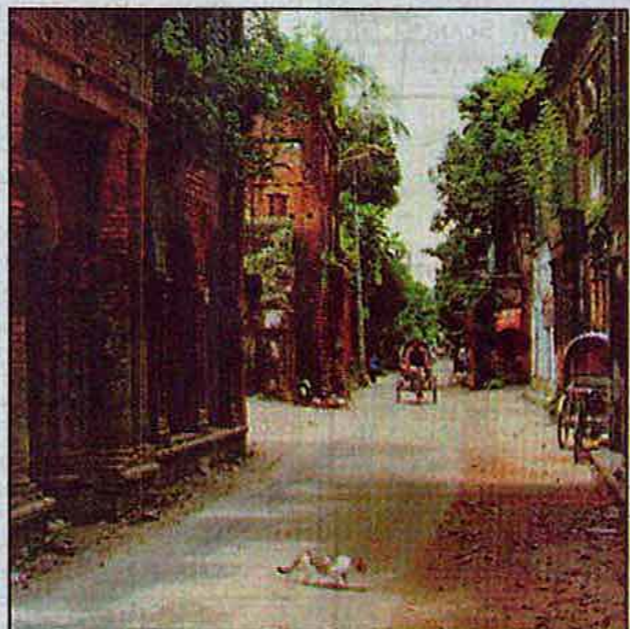


PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN
The buildings that housed the seat of Sonargaon rulers during the British rule stand in virtual ruins at Panam Nagar in Narayanganj.

Panam Nagar now protected

PINAKI ROY

At long last the government has announced the entire Panam Nagar, a town that hosted the seat of the rulers of Sonargaon during the British rule, an archeologically protected site.

In the face of persistent demands from archaeologists, architects, media people and cultural activists, the government invoked the Antiquities Act 1968 to protect the town, home to 50 old buildings, mostly vested property.

Directed by the president, Joint Secretary Abu Taher signed the order in March listing the structures on more than 10 acres in Sonargaon upazila under Narayanganj district.

Panam, known as 'Havali Sonargaon' at the height of its glory, now consists of the relics of old buildings made of small bricks on either side of a road surrounded by trenches.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

18 'extremists' held at BNP leader's house

STAR REPORT

Eighteen alleged Islamic extremists were arrested late Friday night while they converged at the residence of a BNP leader at Boalmari upazila in Faridpur.

Subscription receipts, seven audiocassettes, a mobile phone set, a book, a flag and scores of leaflets and letters were also recovered from the residence.

The arrestees are madrassah Principal Moulana Shahidul Islam, 30, Abdul Gaffar, 23, Mahfuzzaman,

20, Tofazzel Hossain, 25, Masum Billah, 20, Mohammad Nizamuddin, 20, Bayezid, 25, Habibur Rahman, 30, Iqbal Hossain, 20, Afsaruddin, 22, Hafizur Rahman, 50, and Mizanur Rahman, 23 -- all from Faridpur.

Of the rest, Moulana Abdur Rouf, 39, hailed from Madaripur, while Khaled Saifullah, 19, Mohammad Moniruzzaman, 20, Lovelu Rahman, 22, Golam Rasul, age unknown, and Zillur Rahman, 20, hailed from Magura.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Taskforce for CHT refugees grounded for 2 years

MONIRUL ALAM, MONIRUL ISLAM MONU, JOGLUL HASSAN, from Khagrachhari

The Office of the Taskforce for Chittagong Hill Tracts Refugee Rehabilitation Affairs (TCHTRRA) has virtually remained abandoned for the last two years, after the resignation of its chairman Dipankar Talukder, a former Awami League (AL) lawmaker.

Uncertainty regarding rehabilitation of the local and returnee refugees heightened as the government stopped its relief programme a few days back. Besides, 10 employees of the TCHTRRA have not

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Dhaka, Yangon eye defence pairing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top military personnel of Bangladesh and Myanmar will discuss sharing of military intelligence to curb sea piracy, insurgency and arms smuggling.

A 12-member military delegation from Myanmar now in city will discuss the matters with their Bangladesh counterparts.

The team is scheduled to meet Bangladesh's Supreme Commander (President), army and navy chiefs, the defence secretary and principal

staff officer (PSO) of the Armed Forces Division (AFD) during its six-day stay from September 19 to 24.

Lieutenant General Aung Hwe, commander of Yangon's defence ministry, Bureau of Special Operations, heads the Myanmar delegation.

"Drug trafficking is another aspect that seems to have bedevilled the relations between the border forces of the two countries in recent years and we wish to tackle it together," said a military source.

To facilitate cross-border collab-

orations, the Myanmar team includes Maj Gen Maung Oo, commander of the Western command, facing the Bangladesh border.

The strategic significance of the visit stems from another prospective collaboration too. Dhaka is learnt to have prepared a shopping list of defence hardware that Myanmar produces.

The list include Myanmar-made 5.56mm light machineguns, assault and automatic rifles as well as 7.62mm light machineguns and a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

3 of a family acid-burnt following marriage refusal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three members of a family were acid-burnt at Rajair in Madaripur Friday, as they turned down a proposal of marriage to their adolescent daughter.

A gang of five, angered by the refusal, threw acid on the sleeping members of the family at their house at Alandasta in Rajair at 1:00 in the morning. Landlady Nasima Akhter's right side of body was badly burnt,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

BB probes 'money transfer' by airline GSA to Malaysia

Bribing ministers alleged

REAZ AHMAD

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) is probing allegations that Silkways Cargo Services Ltd., the general sales agent (GSA) of the Malaysian Airline System (MAS), illegally remitted funds to Malaysia.

The probe has been initiated following a complaint to the central bank governor by a Malaysian opposition lawmaker, Teresa Kok Suh Sim, on July 28 through her counsel

in Dhaka advocate Hasanul Alam.

According to the complaint, Malaysian lawmaker Dato Mohd Zin Bin Mohamed, who claims to be the chairman of Silkways, illegally received funds equivalent to \$7 million from Bangladesh. He also occasionally comes to Dhaka to collect his profit and honorarium without permission from the BB.

According to the complaint, Zin is not the chairman of Silkways

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

When you buy Cement

Familiar Bag does not tell you everything

Look at the **STANDARD NUMBER & INGREDIENTS** on the Bag

Only the Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC) has a long-lasting trust in the construction sector of Bangladesh. Shah Cement Special is also an Ordinary Portland Cement whose main ingredients are Clinker and Gypsum. A clear list of ingredients is only mentioned on the Shah Cement Special Bag. Besides, there are many other types of Cement available that are mixed with Fly Ash, Slag & Lime Stone.

Cement Type	Standard Number		
	American Standard	British Standard	Bangladesh Standard-European Norms
Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC)	ASTM-C 150-98	BS -12 : 96	BDS 232 : 1993 OR EN 197-1: 2000 CEM I
Fly Ash Mixed Cement	ASTM C 595 Type IP	—	EN 197-1: 2000 CEM II/A-V
Slag & Lime Stone Mixed Cement	—	—	EN 197-1: 2000 CEM II/A-M (S-L) 42.5 N

Identify the type of the Cement by confirming the American Standard, British Standard and Bangladesh Standard-European Norms altogether or any one of the Standard Numbers written in Bangla or English on the Cement Bag.

Choose your required Cement Type

Confirm it by the **STANDARD NUMBER & INGREDIENTS**

Shah Cement Cares for Consumer Rights

Born to Build

SHAH CEMENT

