



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Dhaka Mahanagar Women's College protest the death of a fellow student Ratna by symbolically gagging themselves with black cloth, in front of the High Court yesterday.

3 bus terminals given to private hands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday contracted out the maintenance of three bus terminals at Sayedabad, Mohakhali and Gabtoli to private operators for three years.

Each bus will have to pay Tk 30 a day to the operators from October 1.

During the handing over ceremony at Nagar Bhaban, DCC Mayor Sadeque

Hossain Khoka said it is necessary to consider shifting all terminals outside the city to avoid traffic jams.

The two private operators -- Rora Enterprises Ltd. and Diba Enterprise -- got the contracts for terminal operation.

Sayedabad and Mohakhali terminals will be run by Rora while Gabtoli by Diba.

Khoka said contracting out of the terminals will ultimately benefit the passengers.

The DCC will receive Tk 1.42 crore from Sayedabad, Tk 46.38 lakh from Mohakhali and Tk 1.36 crore from Gabtoli terminals a year, the mayor said.

Previously, the DCC earned Tk 3.50 crore from the three terminals

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HSC result may be delayed by week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The publication of results of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations is likely to be delayed by a week due to the absence of the chairman of Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Dhaka, sources said.

The HSC results are likely to be published by the second week of October as Prof Muhammad Junaid, also coordinator of all education boards, is scheduled to return home by October 7. Junaid is on vacation in London.

Examinees and guardians are anxiously waiting for the result, which board authorities could not publish even after about three months of the exams.

"Career plans of the HSC examinees will be upset due to the unsolicited delay," a guardian said.

Anxious guardians made phone calls to newspaper offices to know actual date of publication of the results, which some newspapers said will be published today.

Japanese used car exporters due tonight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

A delegation of Japan Used Car Exporters Association (JUCEA) arrives in Dhaka tonight on a five-day visit against the backdrop of the Bangladesh government's tough stance on import of reconditioned automobiles.

The delegation, headed by Hiroshi Sato, chairman of the JUCEA, will call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury

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Magnetic train feasibility study soon

UNB, Dhaka

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda has said the feasibility study will be carried out soon on introducing high speed electro magnetic levitation train.

He said this while presiding over a meeting yesterday at the conference room of the Rail Bhaban on technical and technological aspects of magnetic train management, infrastructure facilities and transportation of passengers.

The minister said the magnetic train is not a dream now, it is a reality. It will be good enough and viable for Bangladesh. The magnetic train will be environment-friendly and benefit the common people, he added.

Director General of Bangladesh Railway AKM Rezaul Karim also addressed the meeting, said an official release.

Dhaka may miss duty-free access if labour standards not improved in EPZs

US envoy talks of January 2004 deadline at MCCI meet

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh may miss out on duty-free access to the US market if it fails to improve labour conditions in the export processing zones (EPZs) within the January 2004 deadline as a condition for retaining its generalised system of preference (GSP) privileges, the US envoy to Dhaka said yesterday.

"Under our trade laws, countries

must ensure internationally recognised labour rights and adequate protection of intellectual property rights if they wish to take advantage of our GSP programme," Ambassador Harry K Thomas mentioned at a meeting with the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

The MCCI said it subscribes to trade union rights but the reality is trade unions are highly politicised and

dominated by non-workers.

"We are on record having moved the government to allow trade union rights in the export processing zones (EPZs). However, one cannot forget the reality that in Bangladesh, like in other South Asian countries, trade unions are highly politicised," MCCI President Tapan Chowdhury told the US ambassador.

Ambassador Thomas said

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PCJSS slams comments on Shantu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Parbatya Chattagram Jono Shanghoti Samity (PCJSS) yesterday condemned the comments directed at Shantu Larma by the Khagrachari Jote at a recent rally as vulgar, communal and baseless.

"The comments were unwanted and disappointing," a PCJSS press release read. "Larma did not make any audacious comments on the prime minister in any way, rather Larma spoke of the legal land rights of the hills people and the proper implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Treaty."

The leaders added "hatching a conspiracy to divert issues away from the hill tracts will not bring any benefits for the CHT or the entire nation."

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DCC plans medical waste disposal

ABDUL KADER

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has taken up a plan for separate disposal of medical wastes from the city's hospitals, clinics and pathological and diagnostic centres.

The newly formed Solid Waste Management Cell (SWMC) of the DCC will be equipped with separate garbage trucks, waste containers and cleaners

having safety mechanism to implement the plan 'as soon as possible', a top official of the DCC said.

Moreover, guidelines for medical waste management are being formulated by a committee formed by the environment ministry.

About 200 tons of medical waste are generated in the city every day, most of which are dumped outside the hospitals

and clinics without 'separation' of those at their sources, posing a serious threat to public health.

Medical wastes are categorised as hazardous and non-hazardous. Wastes generated from pathological and diagnostic tests and some other sources are hazardous and those from food and bed clothes is non-

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Clarification

The jail directorate clarified a statement of Inspector General of Prisons Zillur Rahman published in a news headlined "Education, not Jail, sought for juvenile delinquents" in The Daily Star on September 15.

It said Rahman's quotation "The reality inside jail is worse than what the media portrays" might be misunderstood as the report did not describe the context of the comment.

The clarification states that since the jail is a restricted establishment, media access there is controlled. In such a context, media reports on jails often do not reflect the reality and create wrong impressions about jails among people.

Valuables worth Tk10 lakh looted from Mirpur house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables reportedly worth about Tk 10.85 lakh from a house at Lalkuthi in Mirpur in the early hours yesterday.

A gang of six burgled into the residence of Rowshan Ara Begum on the second floor through the kitchen window at about 3:30am.

The robbers took the family hostage at gunpoint and demanded the keys of the almira. They also

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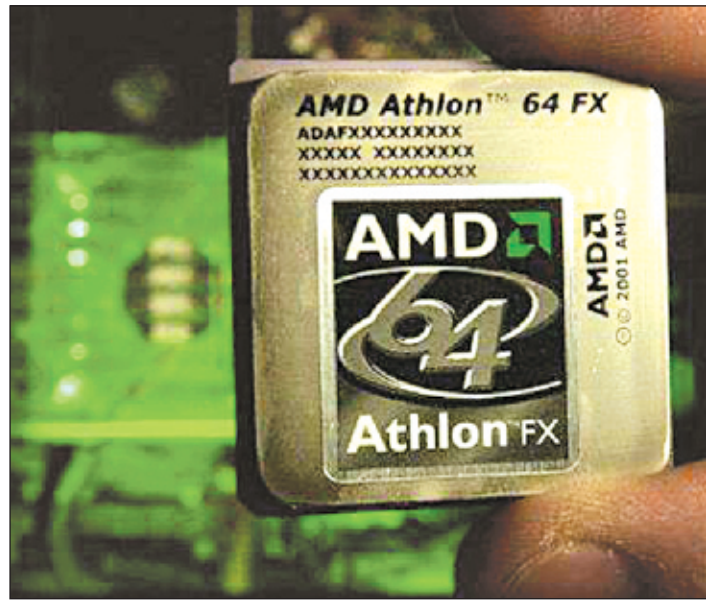


PHOTO: AP

SPEEDING AHEAD...

A leading manufacturer of computer processors, AMD, has launched its new processor, the Athlon 64 FX, in San Francisco, US. Running at a phenomenal 2.2 gigahertz, it has the power to handle gigabytes "exponentially" faster than its competitors, and also demands computers with more memory and supporting software. More than 60 leading computer manufacturers and system builders, such as Hewlett-Packard Co., Fujitsu and Alienware have already signed on, says AMD, eager to come on board with this new processor, set to "usher in the next wave" of PC innovation.

| | Sun Rises | Sun Sets |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| Sept 25 | | 5-52 pm |
| Sept 26 | 5-47 am | |

| Prayer Timings | | |
|----------------|-------|--------|
| September 25 | | |
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 4-45 | 5-15 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-20 |
| Asr | 4-30 | 4-45 |
| Maghrib | 5-59 | 6-04 |
| Esha | 7-45 | 8-15 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Young entrepreneurs urged to set up agro-based units

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the young entrepreneurs to think of a better choice to tap the country's hidden potentials, particularly in agriculture, for the welfare of the people, the nation and for themselves.

"I particularly invite the attention of the young entrepreneurs to engage themselves in our agro-based industries

which have a wide market both at home and abroad," he said while addressing the inaugural function of a three-day 3Es summit of Junior Chamber, Bangladesh, at Sheraton Hotel.

Referring to this year's theme of the chamber, 'Educate, Enhance and Energise', the president said,

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