Robbery bid foiled in Pallabi, gang decamps with loot in Rampura

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three robbers were caught during a robbery bid at city's Pallabi while three others decamped with looted cash and valuables worth Tk 2.44 lakh from a house at Rampura yesterday, police said.

Sources said a gang of four robbers rang the doorbell of Dr Motiur Rahman Chowdhury's second floor flat at 17/5, Pallabi Residential Area at 11:30am.

As the domestic help opened the door, the robbers stormed into the house, took Dr Rahman hostage at SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Self tax return submission date extended

UNB, Dhaka

Last date for submitting income tax return for the 2003-2004 fiscal has been extended till October 31 from September 30.

The date, which was re-fixed upon request from different quarters and organisations, will also apply to individual taxpayers in selfassessment system, said an official handout yesterday.

JU postpones exams till Oct 15 for water crisis

JU CORRESPONDENT

University have been postponed until October 15 because of acute water crisis in three women halls since September 24. The decision came from a meet-

All examinations at Jahangirnagai

ng between the vice-chancellor (VC) and the deans of four faculties yesterday morning in the wake of students' siege to the VC's residence on Saturday night.

The crisis began as a pump supplying water to Jahanara Imam, Pritilata and Nawab Faizunnesa halls went out of order.

Meanwhile, a bucket of water is selling at Tk 20 on the campus.

of the university, said the authorities were trying to install a new pump what would take another three

Sun Rises | Sun Sets

5-48 pm

Sept 30	5-50 am		
Prayer Timings			
September 29			
		Azan	Jamaat
Fajr		4-45	5-15
Zohr		12-45	1-15
Asr		4-30	4-45
Maghrib		5-57	6-02
Esha		7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation			



Boys going to school in a rickshaw-van gaze at children asleep on a road divider. As Child Rights Week starts countrywide today, the disparity of choice between affluent and poor children remains as visible as last years.

The report mentioned that under

the women's assistance

programme of the Women's

Directorate, 1144 cases out of 1541

were disposed of in the last five

years and 397 cases are still pend-

recovered as 'denmohor' and main-

given to the victims and complain-

Barisal Sk Abul Kalam said most of

the complaints and cases lodged

In his report, DC and DM of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Most cases under

women repression

prevention act false

and children

Barisal district admin report says

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Most complaints and cases filed

under the Prevention of Repression

on Women and Children Act in

Barisal district are false and moti-

administration has suggested stern

action against complainants of such

false cases and steps to raise public

prepared and sent to the divisional

commissioner of Barisal on

September 25. Earlier, the higher

authorities asked the deputy com-

missioners (DCs), who are also

district magistrates (DMs), to submit

Sources said the report was

awareness against this.

Stating this in a report, the district

vated, showing abuse of the act.

Housewife dies after abortion, clinic owner arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young housewife died of excessive bleeding after abortion at a Mirpur clinic yesterday.

Hosneara Begum, 35, wife of Abdus Samad, was admitted to Modern Nursing Home at Mirpur for abortion. Hosneara, pregnant for four months, came to her elder sister Sultana Begum's house at Dhaka last Friday. Mother of two sons and a daughter, she came from village Kokadair, Nagarpur, in Tangail.

More than Tk 18,67,781 was Sultana took her sister to the clinic tenance cost from the cases and Saturday evening and consulted with the doctor for the abortion.

"Hosneara needs saline as she was anaemic," Sultana said quoting the doctor. The doctor also pushed an injection in the saline

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

20 buses vandalised in transport workers' clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

At least 20 buses were vandalised yesterday in a series of clashes between two groups of transport workers over the launch of a new

According to police and witnesses, Eagle Paribahan, reportedly owned by a local BNP leader, launched its operation on Simrail-Kalir Bazar route at about 8:00am. Other bus operators were agitating against the drive, they added.

The workers of other bus services attacked and damaged two buses of Eagle at Pathantuli. To avenge the incident, the workers of Eagle also damaged three buses in front of Moonlight cinema hall at Adamjee at about 10:00am.

At least 11 buses of Eagle and nine buses of its rivals were ran SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

2 raped, killed in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Police yesterday recovered the bodies of two women, believed to be raped and killed, at Rai-Laxmipur under Alamdanga Upazila of the

The victims are Komela Khatun 36, wife of late Hafizuddin of Kabilnagar of Alamdanga Upazila, and Fingea, 36, wife of late Rahim Mondol of Hakimpur of the same

Alamdanga Police said both women, who were reportedly floating sex workers, were killed after rape.
A case was lodged with

Alamdanga Police Station. The bodies were sent to Chuadanga hospital morque for autopsy

Tullow again rejects block 9 sellout

Irish company Tullow once again categorically rejected the Block 9 share sale of its partner Chevron-Texaco to Canadian company Niko Resources, accusing it of violating various legal aspects of the production sharing contract (PSC).

In a letter to the Chevron International Bangladesh Ltd. (CIBL), Tullow said that as per the contract Chevron-Texaco did not obtain prior written sale approval from the government and that the CIBL did not even have the legal basis to sell its 60 percent shares in

The CIBL in its September 16 letter to Petrobangla pulled up a

sold out its equity to Niko. The CIBL looks after the shares of Chevron and Texaco, the two American companies that took control of 30 per cent shares each back in April 2001 when the PSC was signed. Chevron and Texaco merged later that year.

On Saturday, Niko in an announcement from Canada, declared that it has assumed all obligations of Chevron-Texaco under a purchase deal, effective from January 1, 2003.

However, Petrobangla has already rejected the CIBL sale saying that the PSC demands any such sale is subjected to prior approval of the government. It also

pointed out Texaco's 30 per cent share transfer to the CIBL has not vet been approved by the government. Therefore, the CIBL does not have the legal footings to sell out 60 per cent shares.

Tullow's letter was issued Friday by its Legal and Commercial Director A Graham Martin in line with Petrobangla's stance.

The CIBL does not hold 60 per cent shares of the block, states the letter. As per the PSC and Joint Operating Agreement (JOA) of Block 9 partners -- Chevron Texaco, Tullow and Bangladeshi company Bapex, which holds 10 per cent share -- Texaco Bangladesh is

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

3yrs on, nutrition project yet to take off for red tape

NAIMUL HAQ

Implementation of the Tk 640 crore National Nutrition Project (NNP) launched in July 2000 is yet to start because of bureaucratic tangles.

The project aims to reduce critical and acute malnutrition particularly among women and children, in 105 upazilas with consequent fall in incidence of low birth weight, anaemia, goitre and night

Some 2.5 lakh community nutri-

tion organisers and promoters volunteers and field officers are involved in the project The Executive Committee of the

National Economic Council (Ecnec) took three years to approve the final design of the project due to disagreements with the World Bank (WB), a major financier of the pro-

officials at the NNP and the WB said.

The WB and project officials still differ on final selection of nongovernmental organisations packages (APs) out of 23. The other 16 APs cleared by the WB have been awaiting approval of the health

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Blair won't apologise over Iraq war, vow to run for third term

AFP/ REUTERS, London

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, facing the worst crisis of his six-year tenure, yesterday signalled his determination to serve a third term in office despite a continued slump in the polls for both him and his ruling Labour party.

In an interview with The Observer newspaper, Blair indicated he would serve a full term as prime minister if re-elected at the next general election, due mid-2006 at the latest.

"Of course. I mean, if you stand, that's what you do. And I've said I want to carry on doing the job until the job is done," Blair told the paper as his party's annual conference was set to open on England's south coast later Sunday.

In a damaging blow to the prime minister, polls showed Labour has slumped to its lowest level since 1987, a decade before Blair won his first general election.

Almost half of all voters, including many Labour supporters, want Blair to quit over his handling of the

Blair, echoing his comrade in arms President Bush, also reiterated yesterday he had no regrets about launching the war that toppled Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. "I don't apologise for Iraq. I am proud of what we have done.

Blair, like Bush in a radio address on Saturday, said he had no doubt Saddam had been "a serious threat SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Europe's Ariane-5 carrying a lunar explorer and two satellites takes off on Saturday from the Kourou space centre in French Guyana.

Europe launches moon mission

Indian telecoms satellite put in orbit

AFP, KOUROU, French Guiana

The European Space Agency (ESA) got its first moon mission underway overnight Sunday, launching into orbit lunar explorer SMART-1 which will make its way slowly to the moon and start making observations in December 2004.

In the 162nd takeoff of a European launcher from the space centre here, an Ariane 5 rocket put in orbit the lunar explorer and two telecommunications satellites, the Indian INSAT 3-E and the European e-BIRD.

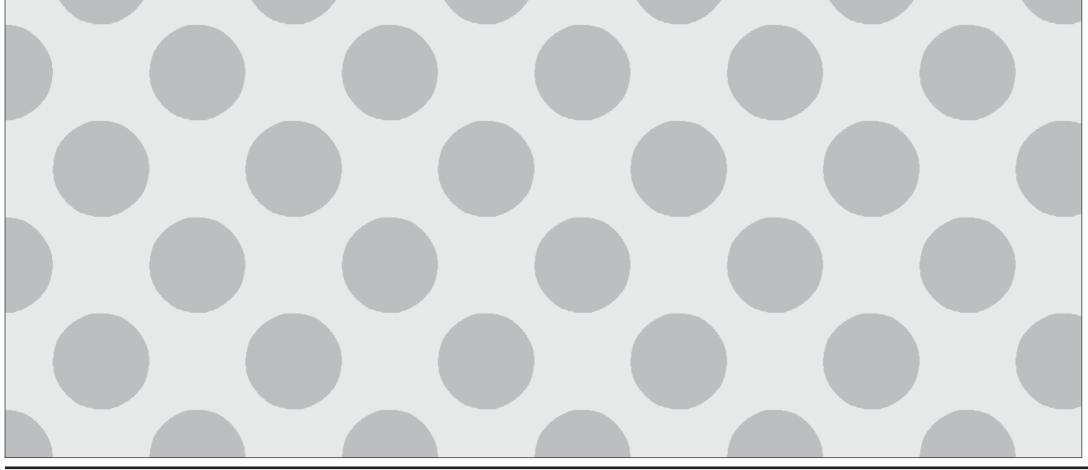
The flight had initially been scheduled for August 28 but was postponed on two occasions in order to allow the Indian Space Research Organisation to carry out extra checks on its satellite before

"It's a superb evening for us, it's remarkable" crowed Arianespace general director Jean-Yves Le Gall. 'We launched two satellites plus a lunar probe after a very difficult vear." he added, referring to the loss of a 10-tonne Ariane on December "With this success, everything

indicates that our accounts will be balanced in 2003," he went on, with Arianespace expecting five or six launches of Ariane 5 Generic, or standard, rockets and hoping for a resumption of Ariane 10-tonnes (ECA) launches in the first half of 2004.

The updated Ariane-5 ECA capable of hoisting a 10-tonne payload into orbit, has been placed on ice after the disastrous failed maiden launch last December.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



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