



The Daily Star



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIII No. 273

DHAKA TUESDAY OCTOBER 21, 2003

COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

KARTIK 6, 1410 BS

SHABAN 24, 1424 HJRI

16 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: TK 10.00

www.thedailystar.net

Trade talks Delhi counters as Dhaka presses for lifting barriers

STAR REPORT

India yesterday made a counterpoint that its products were facing restrictions on the next-door market after Dhaka urged New Delhi at a meeting here to remove 15 non-tariff barriers its exporters are facing.

Dhaka imposed restrictions on yarn import from India through land

port, and non-tariff barriers are also blocking the access of sugar, potato and pharmaceutical products to the Bangladesh market, Delhi negotiators mentioned on the first day of a three-day meeting on bilateral trade, beginning in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh placed 15 non-tariff barriers that hurt the access of its products to the Indian market.

The barriers include bureau-

cratic harassment at entry points, dispute over classification of goods for customs purpose, inadequate facilities at land customs posts, imposition of ad-hoc surcharges and arbitrary health certification requirements, import fees, requirements of chemical tests and higher letter of credit margin.

Responding to the problems, SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



DEJA VU: Fully functional road dividers lie uprooted on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday after authorities tore them down to make room for a new version as part of the road beautification agenda in a waste of state fund.

PHOTO: STAR

Bail fix allegation against judge CJ sends file to president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice KM Hasan yesterday referred the allegation of corruption against a High Court judge to President Iajuddin Ahmed.

The president sent the allegation to the law ministry, which will send a brief to the prime minister today for her permission to constitute a Supreme Judicial Council to probe the allegation, sources said.

The chief justice (CJ) and two other senior judges of the Supreme Court will sit in the SJC.

If found guilty of misconduct, the president will remove the judge.

Supreme Court Bar Association President Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud on October 15 accused Justice Syed Shahidur Rahman, an additional judge of the High Court, of taking Tk 50,000 from a client for fixing bail of an accused in a women repression case.

Earlier, the CJ summoned the judge to hear his side of the story about the allegation. Shahidur is now on a two-month leave.

This is the second time in the history of Bangladesh that a judge faces corruption charge.

In 2000, High Court Judge Latifur Rahman resigned as the process to form the Supreme Judicial Council was taken. Allegations of taking bribe from deposed president HM Ershad to influence the verdict in the Janata Tower graft case were levelled at him.

The judge in question this time, Shahidur, was earlier accused of embezzling funds from the Supreme Court Bar Association when he was treasurer of the association.

The Bar Association had urged the government not to appoint him judge because of such allegations.



Sierra Leone president due today

UNB, Dhaka

Sierra Leone President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah arrives in Dhaka today on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh.

President Iajuddin Ahmed will receive the Sierra Leone leader at Zia International Airport. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will also be present.

A foreign ministry press release said President Kabbah and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will hold official talks to strengthen bilateral ties.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Take stern action to realise Tk 358cr bills

JS body asks telecoms ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the post and telecommunications ministry to take trident measures, including legal action, to realise Tk 358 crore bills in arrears.

The parliamentary standing committee on the ministry at a meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban also directed the parliament secretariat

to state the due bills of lawmakers.

"Nobody is entitled to special facility for telephone bills. If one fails to pay bills, their lines will be disconnected," GM Fazlul Haque, chairman of the committee, told newspapermen emerging from the meeting.

The committee also discussed the option of fixing ceilings of telephone bills for disconnection and

formed a committee with the secretary of the ministry as its chief to that end.

The ministry proposed for the ceilings of Tk 10,000 for metropolises, Tk 8,000 for district towns and Tk 5,000 for upazilas when non-payment of bills will result in disconnection.

Bangladesh Telegraph and SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Hasina blames PM for anarchy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday came down hard on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for her Sunday's comment blaming the opposition for spreading anarchy, and counter-blamed the rise in crimes on the ruling coalition.

"The prime minister is responsible for widespread criminal activities, as she harbours criminals and godfathers of her party," Hasina said, addressing a discussion in front of Bangabandhu Memorial

Museum, organised by Russell Jatiya Shishu Kishore Parishad.

"As it is a gathering of children, I will not make too much political comments. I will not counter all of her lies," Hasina said.

Khaleda fired a broadside at the main opposition party accusing it of creating chaos while addressing a public meeting at Paltan Maidan in Dhaka Sunday in celebration of the coalition's two years in power.

Hasina accused the prime minister of awarding the alleged killers of SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Tigers bubble with belief

First Test starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's confidence will be at an all-time high when they take on touring England in the first ever Test between the two sides at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

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আভিজাত্যই আমাদের প্রথম কথা। আপনার স্বপ্নের রঙে আমরা সাজিয়েছি সব বিলাসবহুল এ্যাপার্টমেন্ট। আপনার জীবনকে সুন্দর আর উন্নত করতে, সুখ-আনন্দের গর্বে ভরে দিতে... আমরা সবসময় প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ।
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